



ANNUAL ISSUE

FISH TALES



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1991 ANNUAL ISSUE

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MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

A new era begins for Detroit Area Steelheaders!

As the Detroit Area Steelheaders moved into the 1990's, the future of the Great Lakes fishery was reminiscent of a foggy morning leaving the pierheads without a LORAN — you could not see very far, but you proceeded with caution with your eyes glued to the compass and the rest of the crew with their eyes peeled for danger!

Anyone who has spent a foggy day on the Big Lakes knows that uneasy feeling of not really knowing your location while trying to get back to where that last hit took place, and, in truth, not really knowing if you were north or south. Kind of risky? Should we continue on? Should we go back and wait for things to clear up? In fact, you may even have questioned your sanity for being out on the Lake in those conditions! Last January, the status of our state organization (the M.S.S.F.A.) and the fishery was in this foggy condition.

The fishery was faced with many serious problems, and the outlook was not the greatest. The northern Lake Huron fishery was looking at the possibility of gill nets remaining in Hammond Bay, and perhaps even spreading south to Alpena. The sea lampreys had again taken their grip on the fishery, and the funding to control or at least keep them from causing total destruction was being reduced. Port Austin lost its lake trout plants. And that fine fishery will be the next one which will draw major attention in the near future — don't be surprised if you notice a big decline in successes there soon.

The Lake Michigan fishery was (and still is) in serious trouble. Reduced plants of chinook and BKD (bacterial kidney disease) inflicted major blows. Water fleas had taken hold. Safe human consumption of salmon was called into serious question. Lake Erie was facing a major crisis with the zebra mussel.

Many businesses have closed or have felt the pinch of the lack of fishermen on the Great Lakes. Many big-name tackle stores and charter captains have gone bankrupt.

The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) director David Hale was in a fog himself, as proven by his response to a question in an interview with the Editorial Board of the Detroit News dated June 12, 1990. Here is Director Hale's reply to a question asking what had caused the reduced numbers of salmon in the Great Lakes:



DAVE EVEN, Detroit Area Steelheader President (l), and Rob Helzer of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association watch as Jim Stacey (r) present Boat Trolling Tournament Chairman Dick Shirk with the winner's check of \$5,000 for the Detroit Area Steelheaders club victory in the 1990 River Crab Salmon Stakes.

"Certainly the catch of chinook has dropped off, and dropped off appreciably last year, about 40 percent of what it was in 1986. But keep in mind that . . . in 1986 we had had well over 4 million fishing hours; last year 2.2 (million). So the effort to catch them has reduced . . . I think the important point that needs to be made is that in the other areas of salmon fish in Lake Michigan, the catch per effort is way up. Lake trout, brown trout, coho, steelhead are all very thriving fisheries, and it takes much less effort now to catch those fish than it did three or four or five years ago."

When was the last time David Hale went fishing??

He has no idea of what the fishery in the Great Lakes was and is under his leadership and lack of knowledge of the fishery. Our hopes of returning to the great fishing we all enjoyed in the past were slim indeed.

The state organization, the M.S.S.F.A., which at one time had over 6,000 members and was politically powerful with the influence in Lansing to make an impact on the fishery, was (and still is) in a complete fog, gasping for air and providing no services or functions for its dues-paying members.

Poor financial management, incompetence, and just a complete lack of unity among its chapters resulted in

nothing more than member dues and M.S.S.F.A. assets begin given to its executive director for nothing in return. M.S.S.F.A. had become the problem instead of the solution.

Fortunately, 1990 brought some hope that some of these problems could be resolved. There is now a better understanding of BKD. Fish plants have been restored in Lake Michigan. An agreement has been reached on Hammond Bay. Most of the sea lamprey control funding has been restored, and a new method is being used to combat this major problem. The DNR is now using pens to raise smolts and, hopefully, improve the survival rates of the plants. There is hope in sight that the zebra mussel can be controlled or reduced.

Fishing was better in 1990, and it now seems as though 1989 was the bottom of the barrel — we hope! We have a new governor, and most likely a new director for the DNR.

The new year of 1990 started for the Detroit Area Steelheaders with one of the best decisions I feel we could have made. We decided to remove our affiliation with the M.S.S.F.A. The justification for the action is well-documented and there's no need to dwell any longer on this subject. The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. is now focused on improving the fishery, and has affiliated with the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council. We are also working with the Bluewater Sportfishing Association to form a coalition to address issues of the fishery.

In September, we donated \$1,000 to the Bluewater Sportfishing Association in support of their reef project at Lakeport. We have given, and will continue to give, support to fisheries research at Michigan State University. It is still our main goal to promote and protect the Great Lakes fishery. Presently, our Board of Directors is studying several ideas for the future to help restore our once-great fishery.

Our membership has increased and our financial status is strong. A new logo was designed and is now in use. The Detroit Area Steelheaders remains one of the most-respected fishing organizations in the state of Michigan.

As always, January is the time for the start of the fishing/boating show circuit,

and in 1990 Bruce Haywood, Mike Lehto and Dennis Holloway did another fine job of making sure the Detroit Area Steelheaders remain in the public eye at all of the major outdoor shows. Those shows are an important function of this organization, as we are able to let many people know that we do exist, and that we are busy supporting the fishery for all to enjoy. Our club membership manned our booth and gave the support we needed — many thanks to all who helped out!

The February highlight was our Dinner Dance, which is always a great time. Jim Lee and Kathy Burbary did their usual excellent job, and if you miss the 1991 edition, only blame yourself because this annual activity is always a lot of fun!

March is when everybody starts to get the fishing itch. The 'River Rats' thaw out as spring arrives and they begin to notice an increase in fishing success. Cabin fever reaches its peak, and boat trollers begin to count the days.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders Annual Spring Fishing Show took place early in the month, and was a big success. Thanks to all members who stuck it out for two days — 1990 was the first time we tried the two-day format. The 1991 Spring Fishing Show will again be two days, and I'm sure our members will deliver the support needed to achieve the success we've come to expect from this project. A special thanks goes to Bob Ksionzek, who did all the groundwork for the 1990 show.

April brings the trolling tournament schedule, and the first stop was in southern Lake Huron. With the guidance of Dick Shirk, Boat Tournament Director, we proved again that we have some of the finest fishermen on the Great Lakes, as the Detroit Area Steelheaders easily outdistanced all competition at the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes. Our club fleet, which was smaller than our closest competition, located a big school of kings between Lexington and Port Sanilac which provided us enough action to capture first place and the \$5,000 prize. Other highlights included Skipper Ed Wilczek's misfortune of finding very shallow water and causing the spawning of the now-infamous song "Rocky, Row Your Boat Ashore!"

As May started to bring warmer weather, the boat trolling tournament schedule got into full swing in quarter-time as 'Doug and the Slugs' made their appearance at the St. Joseph tourney. The fishing was cancelled that day, but the singing of the "Great Detroit Steelheaders" will never be forgotten!

The tournament trail continued to run its course during the summer and the competition was tight as many fine fishermen honed their skills. Dick Shirk's efforts showed, as the summer activities were well-planned and all the outings came off without a hitch. It was another fine job by Dick! Enjoy Florida this winter, Dick — we'll see you in April.

The annual Special People Outing in June was a huge success thanks to our Tim Graskewicz, Dave Barr of the Detroit Red Wings, and the Toledo Beach Marina. Many skippers showed their unselfishness and gave of their time and money to make sure that a lot of "Special People" enjoyed a great time. I still don't know who had the best time, the kids or the

Continued on Page Sixteen . . .

Little Bill's Trophies

Custom Engraving

"LITTLE BILL"
Owner



"BIGGIE"



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FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC. Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of events which affect sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers and land.

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The list of Officers and Committee members for 1991 will be published in the next issue of Fishin' Tales.

All materials for publication should be submitted to:
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Spring Fishing Show set for March 23-24

One of the surest signs that spring is at hand and winter has finally come to an end — 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 23 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1991!!**

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 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, with a \$3 donation for admission. Children under age 12 (who attend with an adult) and Senior Citizens get in **FREE!** There is plenty of convenient, free parking available.

As in years past, this show offers all fishermen and fisherwomen 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 charter operator Captain Steve Jones will reveal the tactics and tricks that make



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



IF YOU'RE INTO FISHING, then the Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show is the place for you to be on March 23 and March 24!!

him one of the most successful fishermen on the Great Lakes. Other guest speakers include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Ron Spidler. The information and advice you'll get at the show will help you be more successful catching salmon and trout!

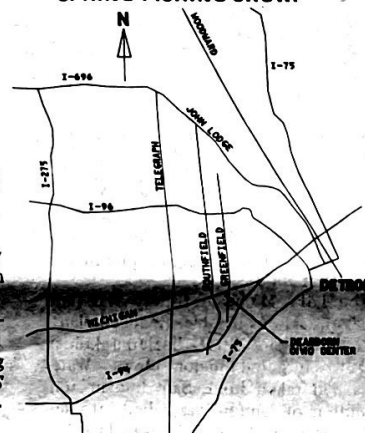
There will be seminars on river fishing, surf fishing, and boat trolling. Other clinics scheduled include fly tying, rod building, and how to prepare smoked fish.

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

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If it has to do with steelhead and salmon fishing, you'll find it at the 1991 Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show. **JOIN US FOR MICHIGAN'S BEST STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW!!!**

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 29, 1991 ■ FEBRUARY 26, 1991 ■ MARCH 26, 1991

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

- PONTIAC BOAT SHOW** (Silverdome) January 23-27
- DETROIT BOAT & FISHING SHOW** (Cobo Center) February 2-10
- STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE** (K. of C. Hall, Warren) February 16
- OUTDOORAMA** (State Fairgrounds) February 22-March 3
- PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW** (The Palace) March 7-10
- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW** (Dearborn Civic Center) March 23-24

WINTER FISHING SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
February 2	CRYSTAL LAKE — Ice Fishing for Lake Trout	Doug Karakas
February 23-27	W.A.T.A. SUPER TOURNAMENT	Doug Karakas

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 20	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)	Don Redmond & Jim Beelby
May 4-5	ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR (Two-day)	Mike Wakulski
May 18	WILSON, NEW YORK	Dick Shirk
June 1	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Doug Karakas
June 15	SPECIAL PEOPLE DAY (Not a tournament)	Tim Graskewicz
June 29	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Dave Even
July 20	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	Bill Shackleton
August 3-4	LUDINGTON (Two-day)	Bob Mitchell
August 17	ROGERS CITY	Bob Herman
August 24	OLCOTT, NEW YORK (Not a tournament)	Dick Shirk
September 7	FRANKFORT	Tim Graskewicz



RON SPITLER, of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will have a lot to say about the future of the salmon and trout fishery in our state!

1991 FISHING RULES

1. **ED WILCZEK RULE** — The 18" minimum will now also apply to the minimum depth of water you may fish.
2. **DEAN PILOT RULE** — When returning to port after a tournament, you must bring your cooler and fish.
3. **BILL SHACKLETON RULE** — The discharge of foreign material into any Great Lakes body of water is strictly forbidden. This includes glasses and shoes.
4. **DOUG KARAKAS RULE** — To enter the wader division in river or surf tournaments, it is not enough simply to own a pair of waders. You must wear them in the tournament.



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Why be a Detroit Area Steelheader?

Perhaps you are a fisherman but have never been a member of a fishing club. If you enjoy, or think you would enjoy, catching big salmon, steelhead and lake trout in the Great Lakes or its tributary rivers and streams, perhaps our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, is for you.

For example, I fished for stream trout and panfish as a kid, but got away from fishing when I got older. Fortunately, a fly-in fishing trip in Canada got me interested in fishing again. I started to read every fishing magazine I could get hold of, and I became painfully aware of all the big salmon and steelhead that a lot of people in Michigan were catching that I wasn't!

I tried to get involved on my own, but I had no boat suitable for the Great Lakes, and no one to show me where and how to river fish. Thankfully, I went to the Detroit Area Steelheaders Spring Fishing Show in Dearborn in early 1982. I was impressed with the seminars, the tackle prices, but especially with club members in the booths, sharing information about how to fish for steelhead in rivers, and how to troll with downriggers for salmon in the Great Lakes.

What really got my attention was something then called "Fishing Partners" (an ongoing club program now called "Crews"). In this program, people like me without a boat were paired up with a boat owner who needed people to be part of his crew and share the expenses of a fishing trip. This was what I had been looking for - I signed up at the show!

At the first meeting I attended, I



AUTHOR MIKE LEHTO is shown here holding a steelhead taken on the Au Sable River from Jerry Zabel's "Wishful."

met a club member who needed someone to go with him on some upcoming fishing trips. He taught me more about boat trolling in a few months than I would have been able to teach myself in five years. We are still fishing together after 8 years, and have already enjoyed a lifetime's worth of memorable fishing trips and friendship.

I have gained many other benefits by being a Detroit Area Steelheader besides gaining a lifetime friend and fishing partner. I've had the chance to fish on several other boats and I've learned valuable information from all of them. Several members have shared their river fishing lessons with me and invited me on many trips. I have friends with a drift boat, and another

friend who owns a boat equipped with a jet pump.

I've had other memorable trips wading rivers in the fall, the spring and even in the middle of winter. I have learned about the Big Manistee, the Little Manistee, the Platte, the Pere Marquette, the Grand, the Rogue and the Au Sable rivers. I've also learned about surf fishing for salmon and steelhead in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Closer to home, there are always several trips each summer to Lake Erie out of Monroe to load up on walleye using planer boards and downriggers.

In eight years, I've learned what does, what doesn't, and what might work. I've learned the ins and outs about rigging

boats, what type of electronic equipment is reliable and necessary versus what is unreliable or faddish junk. I've learned what kind of boats make their owners happy and what kind make their owners want to "deep six" them!

A club like our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, will save you time and money by eliminating trial and error in many areas. You'll also learn how to fish faster.

- Don't forget the chances you'll have to hear from expert guest speakers such as Dick Swan, Jim Bedford, Buzz Ramsey, Steve Jones, Jerry Lee, Dr. Howard Tanner, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) director, the Fisheries Division chief, and other key DNR personnel.
- Don't forget about the safety, camaraderie and shared information of club tournaments at ports and rivers all over the state, and now even Lake Ontario.
- Don't forget the Spring Fishing Show with its seminars, educational booths, tackle and equipment bargains to get you ready for the next season.
- Don't forget our newsletter/magazine **FISHIN' TALES**, with free ads for members, stories and photo reports about tournaments and other club activities, articles on fishing techniques and tips, and coverage on critical fisheries issues.
- Don't forget about the Detroit Area Steelheaders' efforts to aid the fishery when we get a little extra money, such as our donations to Michigan State University's fisheries research, fish cleaning stations, reef and other fishery improvement projects, and anti-gill net efforts, and our Special Olympics/Special People activities.
- Finally, don't forget about all those **BIG** salmon, steelhead and lake trout you are going to catch!

Without a doubt, if you're a fisherman like me, there's opportunity for you in our club. We have people from all walks of life who are all interested in the same thing: having fun, catching salmon and trout, and helping to preserve and improve the fishery for the future.

Come to one of our meetings, or check us out at our Spring Fishing Show on March 23-24 at the Dearborn Civic Center. I think you'll like what you see!

-Mike Lehto

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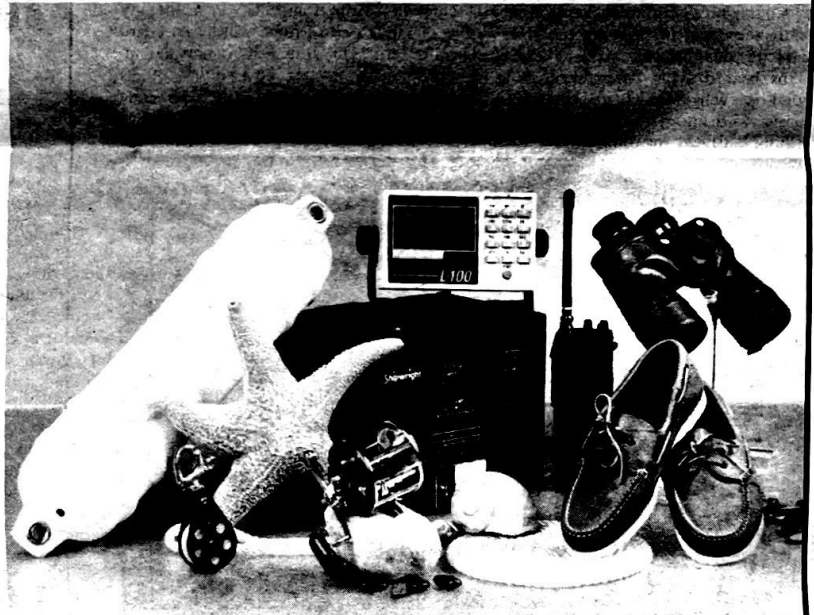
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Mitchell wins top honors for 4th time!

1990 Skipper of the Year

Winning 1990 "Skipper of the Year" honors was not easy. In fact, I don't recall it ever being easy despite winning three in a row. This year, we won on the tie-breaker. Last year, we won by catching one fish on the last day. The year before that it also came down to the last tournament. One has only to note that in 1990, no boat won more than one toumey to appreciate how close the competition was.

I have a couple of theories as to why fishing is so competitive now. First, I have no doubt that previous winners could have won three in a row. The reasons they did not are many, but a key one is that many skippers decided to try the chartering route. Jerry Lee and Bob Kring are two examples of that. Today, chartering does not look as desirable to many skippers. It's a tough job, and business is down. Really good fishermen who might have dropped out of our tournaments in prior years to try chartering are now staying — and providing mighty tough competition.

I've always said that we Detroit Area Steelheaders are some of the best fishermen in Michigan because we don't have a home port. We can't be 'fair weather fishermen'. When you tow 250 miles, **YOU ARE GOING TO FISH!** People who live in fishing ports might be tempted to go home and wait for better times. Fishing under tough conditions makes you a better fisherperson in the long run. The results of our fish-offs with other local clubs bear this out. When the fishing is good, we will probably be beaten by the locals, who know what is hot. When the fishing is tough, we will probably win be-

cause we are better at changing, finding some fish and what they want.

Another factor that has made the tournaments more competitive over the past few years is the fact that we have made few changes in the tournament trail. Skippers with good logs and memories pretty much know what to expect and what to do at these familiar ports. It will be interesting to see what happens at Wilson, New York in 1991.

Another source of more competitive tournaments is rule changes made over the years. The biggest one is that we now count 6 of 9 tournaments to determine the best skipper. Years ago, we counted all events. If you missed one, you were dead. We also lowered the points per fish from 10 to 5, thus putting a higher premium on bigger fish.

The last point that has made toumeys more competitive is more sharing of information. Yes, we still could use improvement, but talk to some of the skippers who fished 5-10 years ago and ask them. Talking on the radio and fish calls have made it easier for everyone to catch fish and have more fun. And *that* is what it's all about in the end!

In closing, I'd like to issue a special thanks to the "Kemo" crew for 1990, and over the past few years: my ace crew chief Bob Gilbert and his wife Leslie, my wife Linda (who I hope will be on board more in 1991), Jodi Gilbert and her recruits from M.S.U., and various others who filled in when we needed someone to reel in a big one.

—Bob Mitchell

(1990 FINAL STANDINGS)

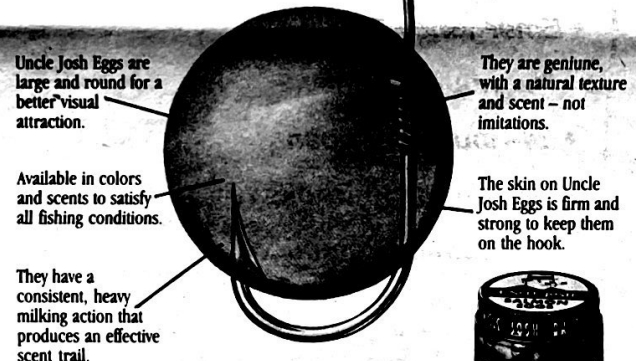
SKIPPER	BOAT	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Tot.
1) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	4	5	3	1	2	3	11	75	13	13*
2) DAVE EVEN	TEACHER'S PET	3	18	2	13	5	9	2	1	7	13*
3) DICK SHIRK	LIL' SCRATCH	24	9	50	2	3	6	1	16	5	17
4) ROB PINSKEY	ANTICIPATION	2	19	1	5	7	4	75	75	75	19
5) MIKE WAKULSKI	WET PAINT	6	1	9	14	10	5	5	50	50	26
6) BOB HERMAN	NOMAD	14	17	7	20	1	75	4	50	4	30
7) DON ANTON	HAPPY BARE	17	6	14	7	75	13	3	75	2	31
8) DOUG KARAKAS	CAPT. HOOK	10	7	50	11	13	11	75	3	18	42
9) DON REDMOND	TRENA DAWN	26	8	4	6	16	75	10	19	75	44
10) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	LUCKY FALCON	9	75	50	26	4	75	75	7	1	47
11) RON HARTMAN	MOLLY FRAIR	31	20	22	15	6	12	8	11	14	51
12) AL SCHULTZ	MISERY 3	12	14	18	17	75	14	13	4	50	57*
13) JIM BEELBY	FISH FLY	7	75	19	9	9	75	75	13	75	57*
14) JIM HARDREK	MY DREAM	39	50	11	75	75	8	17	15	8	59
15) TOM MOORES	KARE FREE	38	12	23	16	18	7	16	17	11	62*
16) TIM GRASKEWICZ	HARMONY	75	4	5	24	23	75	75	8	22	62*
17) JOHN CHWALIBOG	LITTLE BIG JOHN	29	50	50	27	75	1	7	75	3	67
18) GARY LEINONEN	FISHIN' FINNS	40	15	10	28	31	16	14	20	75	75
19) BILL SHACKLETON	NET PROFIT	21	2	21	25	25	10	75	75	75	79
20) CHRIS COFFEY	COFFEY BREAK	36	75	12	22	21	75	75	10	15	80
21) LARRY GAJOWNIK	FORMULATOR	75	3	75	10	8	15	50	75	50	86
22) KRIS NYTKO	AQUARIUS	37	75	75	31	11	75	75	6	12	97
23) RON HUYE	HALF R'S	13	75	50	75	75	9	75	75	2	107
24) RAY GLIME	HALF R'S	75	75	33	75	75	2	75	75	2	112
25) BILL HOFFMAN	STEELE	20	75	75	8	15	75	75	50	19	112
26) RICHARD JACKSON	VOYAGER	30	16	50	18	17	75	75	75	75	131
27) BLAISE PEWINSKI	SEA HAG	1	75	50	3	19	75	75	75	75	148
28) BOB KSIONZEK	LAST DIME II	35	75	6	50	14	75	75	75	75	155
29) BOB PATYK	RENEGADE	15	75	20	12	75	75	75	75	75	172
30) DARWIN GREGG	RETURNER	41	75	50	29	50	50	15	50	75	185
31) DEAN PILAT	HIGH ANXIETY	5	11	50	50	75	75	75	75	75	191
32) VLADIMIR POHORLY	CARMEN ASHLEY	23	75	50	50	30	75	75	75	75	203
33) LEON VAN EDEN	BULLHEAD	32	75	75	75	24	75	75	5	75	211*
34) LES JUMP	ALICE'S ANGLER	33	75	75	75	22	75	6	75	75	211*
35) J. ZABEL	WISS-FULL	22	75	16	30	75	75	75	75	75	218
36) JAY FANNON	MISS SUNSHINE	75	75	75	75	75	2	75	75	9	236

Omit 4 highest scores 50 = See Rule IV-E 75 = See Rule IV-F * = See Rule III-E
 A = River Crab B = St. Joe C = Harbor Beach D = Port Austin E = Oscoda
 F = Manistee G = Ludington H = Rogers City I = Frankfort



THE "KEMO" CREW (l-r): Jodi Gilbert, Bob Gilbert, 1990 "Skipper of the Year" Bob Mitchell, Shawn State, Pat Walker, Jamie Mitchell and Kristy Mitchell.

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It was a "Special People" day!

Each June, the Detroit Area Steelheaders have the opportunity to host a special fishing tournament for some very "Special People." It's our annual "Special People Walleye Tournament" on Lake Erie. We Detroit Area Steelheaders, with the assistance of the Monroe Intermediate Schools, provide the opportunity for individuals (both children and adults) to experience the thrill of catching fish, sometimes their first. A morning of fishing is followed by a picnic lunch, entertainment, trophies, and gifts donated by local businesses.

Dave Barr of the Detroit Red Wings was honorary host for the 1990 tourney, held on June 16. The kids started arriving at 7:00 a.m., and by 8 o'clock almost all the skippers had their new crews aboard. I say almost because Bob Mitchell didn't show up at the docks until after 8:00 a.m. Apparently, Bob was waiting at the pier heads for the 6:00 a.m. shotgun start . . .

We all headed out of Toledo Beach Marina, our base of operations for the event, looking forward to some good walleye fishing. Even Ed Wilczek on "Pat's Competition" cleared the rocky pier heads without incident! After last year's disappointing catch, we could only improve and improve we did! The 9 o'clock fish call showed that nearly everyone was catching fish. I'm happy to report that even Rod Coffey on "Fish'n Rod" was able to land a 'keeper' this year! The skippers were taking everything from walleyes to sheephead to yellow perch and silver bass. The kids didn't care . . . they were fishin'!

Before we knew it, it was noon and time to pull lines and head back. Our picnic lunch was all ready when we hit the docks, thanks to the efforts of Ann and Martin McGinnis, Glenda Hartman, Bob Allen, Alice Jump, and many other helpers. It was great to listen to all the kids tell their fish stories and hear how the biggest one got away (I wonder if that's how we sound at our salmon tournament weigh-ins??). There were some



HONORARY HOST DAVE BARR (I) of the Detroit Red Wings, Phil Andres, Bob Herman, Nathan Andres, Craig Herman, Frankie, and Frankie's dad certainly enjoyed themselves at the 1990 Special People Day Walleye Tournament!

very nice catches brought in, especially by Don "Mr. Walleye" Redmond on "Trena Dawn." "Da the Clown" had his usual bag of balloon animals to entertain the kids during lunch.

The kids had a great time joking around and having their pictures taken with Dave Barr. Dave presented each of the participants with a "Special People" trophy (donated by Little Bill's Trophy Shop), and hats and a bag full of goodies (donated by Ford Motor Company). After the awards were handed out, Dave graciously signed what must have seemed like a thousand autographs. Dave did a fantastic job as honorary chairman, and we hope we can persuade him to come back again in 1991. Thanks, Dave!!

Before long, it was time to call it a day and send the kids home with the awards, pictures, balloon animals, and more than 250 walleyes. A special thanks is due to all the skippers who pitched in and cleaned and packaged all those walleyes for the kids to take home! For some it was a long day, but when the skippers and kids ex-

changed "high fives" or a little hug, somehow it was all worthwhile - just ask Dick Jackson!! Hope to see you all there for this year's outing, on Saturday June 15, once again at Toledo Beach Marina.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders thank the following people, whose support made this event a big success: Toledo Beach Marina, O/E Management Services, Jim Legenzoff, Little Bill's Trophy Shop,



"DA THE CLOWN" entertained the kids with his balloon animals.

Ford Motor Company, all the lunch helpers, and the skippers and their crews.

As you can see, the Detroit Area Steelheaders are more than just a fishing club. We are an organization that CARES! We CARE about people, and we CARE about the quality of the fishery that we have come to expect in the state of Michigan. If YOU CARE as much as we do, I invite you to JOIN THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS TODAY! Help us as we work for a better fishery in Michigan, so we can have a "Special People" tournament in a healthy Lake Erie throughout the 1990's and into the 21st century!

-Tim Graskewicz

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
1990 "SPECIAL PEOPLE" DAY
SKIPPER HONOR ROLL**

LES JUMP, "ALICE'S ANGLER"; ROY SKOMIAL, "DONNA SEA"; DOUG KARAKAS, "CAPT'N HOOK II"; CHRIS COFFEY, "COFFEY BREAK"; JOEL GARINGER, "FISHBUSTERS"; ROD COFFEY, "FISH'N ROD"; MIKE LEHTO, "GUILTY PLEA"; BOB SAUNDERS, "MY VALENTINE"; TIM GRASKEWICZ, "HARMONY"; DENIS HARPER, "LADY'S CHOICE"; BOB MITCHELL, "KEMO"; RON HARTMAN, "MOLLY FRAIR"; DICK JACKSON, "VOYAGER"; BILL SHACKLETON, "NET PROFIT"; ED WILCZEK, "PAT'S COMPETITION"; DICK SHIRK, "LIL SCRATCH"; DON REDMOND, "TRENA DAWN"; MIKE WAKULSKI, "WET PAINT"; BOB HERMAN, "NOMAD"; DAVE EVEN, "TEACHER'S PET"

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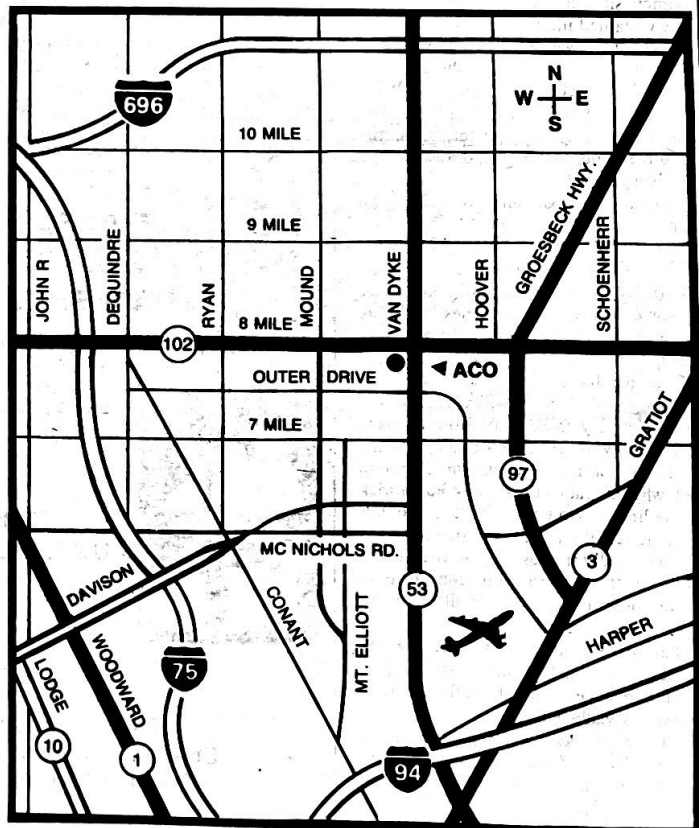
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Looking back on 1990

As another year drew to a close, it was time to reflect upon 1990 and wonder if it was the beginning of the end, or the beginning of an upturn, for our Great Lakes fishing experiences.

In my view, we are obviously still experiencing a downward trend in our salmon fishery, a lack of optimism in the future prospects of bringing the lamprey under control, and a lack of co-operation by our neighbors to curtail the netting of both the forage base and sportfish of our Great Lakes. These, along with our BKD (bacterial kidney disease) problem, and our latest little pest, the zebra mussel, present the D.N.R. with a Mt. Everest of problems to climb.

We cannot, however, allow these problems to lie untouched and dormant. We must keep the pressure on the 'powers that be' with letters and phone calls, stating our positions on these matters. All the above are serious problems, any one of which poses a serious threat to the continued existence of our salmon and trout fishery.

As far as the effects of these problems go, we did experience some highs and lows during our boat trolling tournament schedule in 1990. We had highs such as winning the top club prize of \$5000 at the River Crab Salmon Stakes, the "Special People" Day on Lake Erie, the tremendous Oscoda lake trout catch during Ladies Day, and, for the 11 boats that went, the trip to Olcott, New York and the ball they had with all those steelhead and kings.

Then there were the lows... all the es, and Rogers City - ports which have been just tremendous over the years. Given all the thrills we've enjoyed at these toumey sites through the years, maybe they've earned the right to disappoint us.

I wonder if we've become complacent, expecting every day out on the Big Pond to produce a cooler full of fish. When that doesn't happen, we do a little 'bad-mouthing' instead of reflecting on the good memories we've shared as a club by just being together for a weekend. Think about all the laughs and good conversation we've had on the docks and on our boats. As I've said before, you don't necessarily measure the success of a fishing trip by the weight of your cooler.

Some of my best memories of fishing come from just being with the guys and gals of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, sitting in the back of someone's boat, exchanging stories on how the big one got away the day before, or how it made three 100-yard runs before succumbing to the net, or how he broke the 25-pound test when in fact you already had a nick in the line, or how it weighed 28 pounds when it really was only 19 pounds... No one really minds if you stretch the facts a little to cover your conversation. We've come to expect it! It all makes for interesting conversation!!

Before I joined the Detroit Area Steelheaders, I was just another boat going to a port somewhere for a day's fishing, with no one to really talk to about it, with no one to really share the experience. It's a whole new world when you learn to catch them using the experience and knowledge that our fellow club members are willing and eager to share with you.

One thing is certain, and that is that some of the finest salmon and trout fishermen in the state (or maybe even the



CHUCK MUER (r) admires an 8-pound, 2-ounce brown trout caught by Butch Ayers (center) at last year's River Crab Salmon Stakes. That brown trout was the largest of the 1990 season.

country) are right here in the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

I for one enjoyed all our outings immensely in 1990, and I'm already anticipating the start of the 1991 season with each passing day. In fact, the saddest day last year was October 28, the day I winterized the "Lil Scratch."

Still, there's bow hunting, rifle hunting, rabbit hunting and maybe a little surf and river fishing action... plus some ice fishing thrown in here and there. Before you know it, spring is here and it's time have to start enduring those warm-weather 'hardships' all over again. I guess winter does...!

I want to thank all the people who pitched in and helped me run the tournaments for our club during the past two seasons. Without your help, the toumeys would not have been as successful or as much fun as they were. The participation is what makes everything click! Be good, take care, and I'll be seeing you at the meetings.

-Dick Shirk
"Lil Scratch"

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS BIG FISH STANDINGS - 1990

BOAT	SKIPPER	WEIGHT	LOCATION
KING SALMON			
"MISERY 3"	AL SCHULTZ	26 LBS., 14 OZ.	ROGERS CITY
"HALF R'S"	RON HUEY	25 LBS., 4 OZ.	LUDINGTON
"WET PAINT"	MIKE WAKULSKI	23 LBS., 3 OZ.	MANISTEE
LAKE TROUT			
"HAPPY BARE"	DON ANTON	16 LBS., 13 OZ.	PORT AUSTIN
"STEELIE"	BILL HOFFMAN	15 LBS., 8 OZ.	OSCODA
"MOLLY FRAIR"	RON HARTMAN	15 LBS., 2 OZ.	OSCODA
COHO SALMON			
"LITTLE BIG JOHN"	JOHN CHWALIBOG	8 LBS., 15 OZ.	FRANKFORT
"TEACHER'S PET"	DAVE EVEN	10 LBS., 10 OZ.	FRANKFORT
"HALF R'S"	NILES R. HUEY	10 LBS., 9 OZ.	FRANKFORT
STEELHEAD TROUT			
"THE SANDPIPER"	JANICE KNAPP	11 LBS., 9 OZ.	LUDINGTON
(RIVER)	JACK KLEIN	10 LBS.	MANISTEE RIVER
"KEMO"	BOB MITCHELL	9 LBS., 13 OZ.	MANISTEE
BROWN TROUT			
"SEA TREAT"	BUTCH AYERS	8 LBS., 2 OZ.	PORT SANILAC
"MY DREAM"	JIM SERGENT	7 LBS., 11 OZ.	MANISTEE
"MOLLY FRAIR"	RON HARTMAN	7 LBS., 6 OZ.	LUDINGTON

TOP FIVE SKIPPERS YEAR BY YEAR IN THE 1980'S

Year	1	2	3	4	5
1989	BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	BOB KANAS	"Least Likely"	
1988	BOB MITCHELL	"Exaggerator"	ED CHOINSKI	"Kneeknocker"	
1987	BOB MITCHELL	"Half R's"	DARRIN HARRIS	"Cannonball"	
1986	GREG CLIFFORD	"Molly Frair"	BOB KSIONZEK	"Last Dime"	
1985	DARRIN HARRIS	"Happy Bare"	MIKE ZELKOWSKI	"Elvira"	
1984	BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	GERRY CIURZENSKI	"Jawbuster"	
1983	GREG CLIFFORD	"Teacher's Pet"	MIKE BORONIEC	"Horsefly"	
1982	BOB MITCHELL	"Lil Scratch"	R.J. BRANHAM	"Seahawk"	
1981	BOB MITCHELL	"Trena Dawn"	BOB KOZAR	"Snowman"	
1980	DICK SHIRK	"Exaggerator"	ED YANKOSKI II	"Least Likely"	
1979	BOB MITCHELL	"Outlaw"	BRIAN GLASER	"Least Likely"	
1978	GREG CLIFFORD	"Kemo"	TOBY LAMPI	"Jessie III"	
1977	BOB MITCHELL	"Trena Dawn"	MIKE CURZENSKI	"Nooner"	
1976	GREG CLIFFORD	"Exaggerator"	BOB KRING	"Drifter"	
1975	DICK SHIRK	"Lil Scratch"	R.J. BRANHAM	"Seahawk"	
1974	BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	BOB KRING	"Drifter"	
1973	GREG CLIFFORD	"Outlaw"	TOBY LAMPI	"Jessie III"	
1972	BOB MITCHELL	"Predator"	BOB KANAS	"Least Likely"	
1971	BOB MITCHELL	"Teacher's Pet"	JERRY LEE	"Sea Screw"	
1970	BOB MITCHELL	"Sea Hag"	JEWELL HARRIS	"Cannonball"	
1969	DARRIN HARRIS	"Cannonball"	JERRY LEE	"Sea Screw"	
1968	JOEL GARINGER	"Fishbusters"	TERRY CHOLETTE	"Fishing Fever"	
1967	BRUCE CHOINSKI	"Kneeknocker"	TOBY LAMPI	"Jessie III"	
1966	TOM CHOINSKI	"Sea Con"	RANDY COPE	"Ouzo Too"	
1965	ED MCINTOSH	"Sweet Lorraine"	ED YANKOSKI II	"Least Likely"	

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Detroit Area Steelheaders offers many 'extras'

Detroit Area Steelheaders are well-known for the Spring Fishing Show, monthly meetings with good speakers, boat, river and surf fishing tournaments, and the newsletter, *Fishin' Tales*. While these are all 'high profile', the Board has also ensured that club activities go beyond that, so that we "give something back" to the community.

In looking over the past year, there are a number of things we Detroit Area Steelheaders can point to with pride. In 1990, we donated \$1000 toward the artificial reef construction in Lake Huron at Lakeport (co-ordinates for the new reef: 30854.0 & 49632.5 - good luck!). We hope this project will provide excellent fishing for years to come. We also continued our ongoing support of fisheries research at Michigan State University by donating two downriggers for use in salmon tracking studies.

We donate space at our Spring Fishing Show to worthy organizations to provide them public access. In 1990, we gave free show space to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Benzie Coalition steelhead program, and an organization concerned with nuclear waste dumping grounds. As part of our public education effort, we distributed thousands of free copies of our *Fishin' Tales* Annual.

We also gave back to local communities. We staged our annual Special People Day, with 20 boats taking handicapped children fishing on Lake Erie (See Page Nine). We again supported the River Crab Salmon Stakes, which raises money for the Blue Water Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic and other charities.

Recognizing that we can't do it alone, and to make sure our members' voices are heard, we renewed our club memberships in Boat/U.S. and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), and joined the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council.

In looking back, it seems we did a lot. However, any Board member will tell you that we hope to do even more in 1991. To do so, we need to continue to seek more members and to keep the ones we have. We need the continued support of our members in our fund-raising activities. We know we can count on all of you in 1991! Thanks for your past efforts!!

-Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Directors



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER PRESIDENT DAVE EVEN (l) presents a check for \$1,000 to Charlie Sloan, Blue Water Sportfishing Association President, at their membership meeting last July. The donation was made in support of construction costs for the Reef Project in Lake Huron off Lakeport State Park.

'River Rats' enjoy a "cold weather" challenge!

December 1, 1990 found the Detroit Area Steelheader "River Rats" in and on the Au Sable River for our annual December tournament. The weatherman was very kind to us on this day, providing mild temps, favorable winds and *NO SNOW!* There were a total of 13 people on hand with 5 or 6 last-minute cancellations.

The controversy over the 'constant run' river water is beginning to show good effects on the river. Some of the banks that were constantly moving back through erosion now show signs of grass and ground cover taking hold. Longer stretches, and more of them, are appearing in places where before only mud and sand would constantly fill over the gravel as the wheels at the power dam were opened and closed daily.

After a day of fishing, the gang met at the Dam Store to swap our 'fishing



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER 'RIVER RATS' braved wintry weather last month on the Au Sable River: (l-r) Jerry Zabel, Doug Karakas, Bob Kanas, Don Anton, Jim Hardrick, Ed Yankoski II, Mark Clifford, Ron Wilson, and Scott Kanas.

war stories'. Some of us had fish to weigh in, while some only had stories about the one that got away to put on the scale.

Mark Clifford took first place, with a nice 5-pound 13-ounce steelie that hit on his third cast of the morning. Jerry Zabel claimed second place with a 4 1/2-pound, fresh-run, just-in-from-the-lake steelhead.

Bob Kanas had gotten a few, but didn't bring 'em out for show. Don Anton caught a nice, 2 1/2-pound walleye that was bound for an invite to dinner at his house.

Sunday was just as nice a day for those who chose to stay, or got up early to go back to the river. Personally, I went right back to my 'farming' of fish, to assure a good stock of fish for later on.

-"Farmer Doug" Karakas
River/Surf Tournament Chairman



An exciting new entry to the Great Lakes Sport Fishing and charter boat fleet is Cherokee's 1990 270 Hard Top Sportfisherman. Michigan-made, the 270 Sportfisherman is heavily designed and constructed for devotees of quality and tradition. The 27-ft. L.O.A., 9'4" beam boat is powered by a Crusader Model 270 inboard engine. It is on display at Cherokee's factory distributor, Michigan Owens, 24530 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. Call (313) 777-9852.



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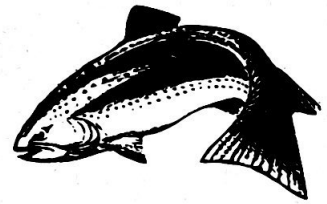
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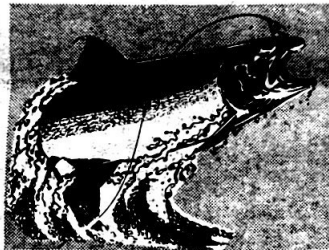


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Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun !!

Detroit Area Steelheader Dinner Dance Chairman Jim Legenzoff is hard at work, getting an early start on our club's outstanding social event of the year, the Annual Dinner Dance.

Jim reports that an early start will enable him to do a better job of planning and preparing his committee. Jim is encouraging all members to come to the bash, and to make their decision right now, so food and drink requirement estimates can be made more accurate.

The Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 1991, and will take place at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings.

Along with plenty of drinks and good food that are fixtures of this affair, there have already been many donations of prizes made by club members, friends, etc. Some of the more interesting ones include a 1988 trout stamp print, tickets to Detroit Red Wing and Detroit Pistons



THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion — Alice and Les Jump had a great time last year!

games and tickets to the Shrine Circus. Jim is also inviting members and/or their wives to donate homemade "arts and crafts" items which have been so popular in the past.

"Participants should not be limited to just our members and their spouses," says Jim. "I would like to see our Dinner Dance expand its popularity, with a big crowd and lots of non-club members attending."

Tickets for this gala event are \$25 per person or \$50 per couple, including all you care to eat and drink, door prizes, great music, and a fun evening of socializing. Invite your friends and relatives, make your plans, mark your calendars, and be sure to get your tickets **NOW!**

If you have any questions about the Dinner Dance, wish to contribute a prize, or purchase your tickets, call Jim at 371-3005 (days) or 839-8958 (after 6:00 p.m.).

Detroit Area Steelheader History

The first organizational meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter, M.S.S.F.A. (as our club was originally known) was held on October 16, 1974. The M.S.S.F.A. Board of Directors had encouraged two of its own, John Makela and Tom Schneider, to start a chapter in the Detroit area.

Joined by two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, the committee of four, after many hours of preparation and planning, founded the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September 1974.

Forty-one fishermen attended that first meeting at the Northwood Inn, discussing elections, finances, committees, by-laws, and mostly fishing, naturally! The "First Annual Meeting" was held on December 4, the official beginning of the club. By the end of that first official meeting, membership exceeded 100, 14 directors had been elected and we were on our way!

Early in 1990, we decided to disaffiliate from the M.S.S.F.A. in order to better pursue our goals of promoting, preserving and improving steelhead and salmon fishing in our state. We are now known as the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc., one of the largest independent fishing clubs in Michigan, and, we believe, **THE BEST!**



TOM SCHNEIDER, first president of the Detroit Area Steelheaders and one of the founders of our great club, reminisced at the 1989 Annual Christmas Party, when we celebrated our 15th anniversary!!

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1991 MEETING SCHEDULE

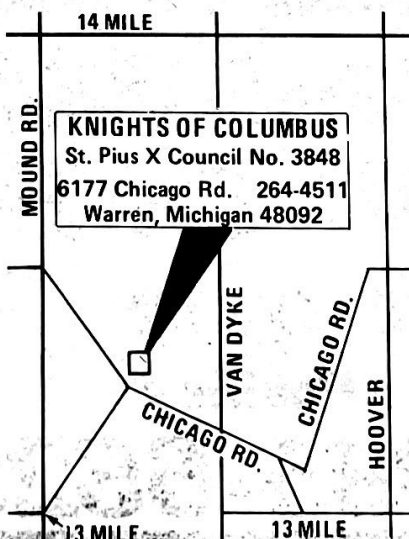
- TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.
- JANUARY 29, 1991
- FEBRUARY 26, 1991
- MARCH 26, 1991
- APRIL 30, 1991
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- JUNE 25, 1991

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THANK YOU!!

A NEW ERA FOR DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS!

.../Continued from Page Two

skippers. This is a must activity for club members in 1991 - mark your calendars now for June 15, 1991, once again at Toledo Beach Marina. See you all there! (See Page Eleven for a full report on this fine, worthwhile event)

Midsummer's unforgettable highlight was the victory of John Chwalibog at the Manistee tournament. All in the club agree that he is most deserving of the win!

As the summer started to wind down, the activity continued at a fast pace. Bob Mitchell and his "Motor City Hit Squad" arrived at the annual Rogers City money tournament ready to do battle. Against a field of 1,100 other anglers and the eternal challenge of the Lakes, Bob and his crew captured the grand prize in this prestigious tournament with a 28½-pound king salmon (see picture on Page One, courtesy of Bill Shackleton).

Bob also placed first overall in the Boat Division, beating out 324 other crews.

Congratulations also go to these other Detroit Area Steelheader winners at the Rogers City money event: Ray Even, 25th place; Mike Chimplak, 26th place; and Jim Beelby, 3rd place in the Boat Division on the second day and 8th place overall. Bob Herman won the Mystery Weight on the final day. This all resulted in members of the Detroit Area Steelheaders bringing home more than \$13,000 in cash and prizes. Not bad, guys! Let's do it again in '91!!

Late August brought the first-ever trip by our club to Lake Ontario - the catching was excellent, and the fishing wasn't bad, either. More to come in 1991 from New York.

As fall arrived, the boats were put under wraps and the 'River Rats', under the

guidance of Doug Karakas, River/Surf Tournament Director, hit the surf. The fall weather was on the rough side and the fishing results were not the greatest, but you can't blame Doug for that. Thanks for another fine job, Doug!

Captain Bob Kring proved that we boat trollers are giving up on the Big Water too soon. Bob enjoyed great success throughout the fall whenever he could get out. Next fall, plan on getting in on this action!

For 1991, our Board of Directors takes on a new look, as three directors, Bruce Haywood, Dennis Holloway, and Jim Legenzoff, step down. All three were excellent Board members and will be missed.

Bruce Haywood, who is moving to Rogers City, reorganized our show booth and made it look really first class. He was also involved in fund raising and did an excellent job there. Best of luck, Bruce. We all hope you'll enjoy your new home!

Longtime Board member Dennis Holloway is stepping down after many years of service to our club. Dennis, who has held numerous club posts over the years, built many contacts for us and always did a fine job in his roles as Spring Fishing Show Chairman, M.U.C.C. representative, and Membership Chairman. Many thanks, Dennis, for many jobs well done!

Jim Legenzoff, also known as "Jim Lee," is also retiring from the Board after many years. Jim was involved in many club functions, including fund raising, the "Cooler Full of Cheer" raffle, and, of course, the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance, one of the highlights for our club each year. Jim also did a lot of little things that usually went unnoticed by most, but are very important to the success of this organization. Thanks for all the help all the time, Jim!

The new year will also bring a new president to the Detroit Area Steelhead-

Guest speakers were outstanding in 1990!

An important reason for the Detroit Area Steelheaders' existence is to educate the public about resources available to us in the Great Lakes. A key way we do this is through guest speakers, and 1990 was a top year for guest speakers at our member meetings. Those speakers included:

Bruce Grant - Rogers City charter captain, who discussed Indian treaty impact on the area fishery, and a salmon smolt-rearing project in Swan Bay.

Robert Elliott & David Zafft - From the M.S.U. Fisheries & Wildlife Department, they discussed research on salmon smolt life cycles in the Pere Marquette River.

Don Reynolds - A Michigan DNR fisheries biologist, Don spoke about salmon and steelhead plantings, the Grand Traverse Bay Indian treaty, Hammond Bay gill

ers. Many thanks to everyone who helped me out whenever asked. To all of the Board members . . . thanks, you were all great. You truly made my job easier!

I'd like to also give a special thanks to all our guest speakers over the past two years. Your input made a big positive impact on our monthly meetings. Thanks, also, to all the membership for your support. Last but not least, thanks to my wife Ellen, who put up with a few inconveniences during the last two years.

The future is bright, and I hope we're on the right path. Yes, we are the great Detroit Steelheaders! I can't wait to sit down and enjoy our monthly meeting and watch someone else. Shake 'em up!!!

Gotta go, like Spike says "It's time to get a fish on the line." Maybe the fog is starting to lift . . .

-Dave Even



SAM CIAIMATARO offered lake trout tips at a Detroit Area Steelheader meeting. nets, and sea lamprey control.

Sam Ciaimataro - A Port Austin charter captain, Sam revealed his secrets for taking lake trout out of his home port.

Steve Stuart - Steve, from the Michigan Sea Grant program, spoke on the impact of zebra mussels on the Great Lakes basin.

Jim Johnson - Michigan DNR fisheries research manager, Jim spoke on the evolution of Lake Huron since 1800.

Ken Sibley - Ken, from Bionic Baits, talked on "fish scents" and their effects.

As you can see, 1990 was an outstanding year for providing quality information to our club members. If you weren't a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders last year, you missed the chance to become informed on our state's fishery in addition to picking up valuable tips on improving your odds for catching salmon. Don't miss out in 1991. **JOIN the Detroit Area Steelheaders TODAY** - see ALL that we have to offer!

-Tim Graskewicz

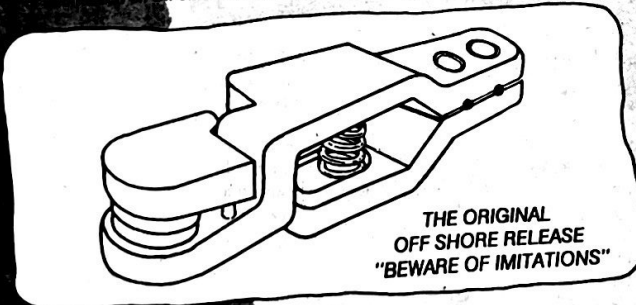
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