



Fishin' Tales II

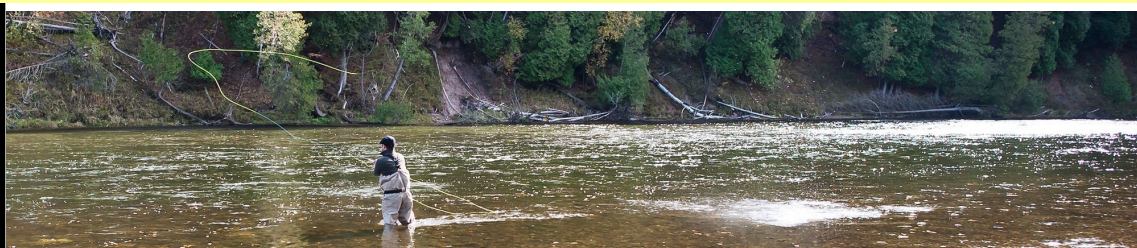
PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume II Issue 3

March 2018

March Membership Meeting

- **When:**
- Tuesday, March 27 2018 7:30pm
- **Where:**
- American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Speaker:**
- Captain Joel Piatek, River Walleye
- **Other Happenings:**
- Upcoming Angler of the Year Outings,
- Tackle Raffles, 50/50 Raffle,
- Every Member Drawing,
- **DAS On the web-**
www.detroitsteelheaders.com Post to the message board and check out the entire site.



Looking ahead to the 2018 trolling season

Last November the skippers active in our boat trolling events gathered to select the ports we would be visiting in 2018. Determining when and where we have tournaments, is based on a number of factors. We try our best to coordinate events to coincide with migratory patterns of great lakes salmon, but sometimes the fish gods don't cooperate.

Popular fishing destinations like Manistee, Ludington, Grand Haven and St. Joseph have emerged as club favorites over the years. These ports are regular stops on our tournament schedule because the fishing has proved consistent, the towns welcome anglers, there is easy access to the lake, and accommodations for boats and crew are readily available. New ports are occasionally added to our schedule and some removed when catch rates fall. This year we'll revisit a couple Lake Huron destinations that we haven't been to in a little while.

We start our trolling season April 21st at a port that's close to home, Lexington, Michigan. We hope to verify reports that salmon continue to make a comeback in southern Lake Huron. Only 15 miles north of the Blue Water Bridge, Lexington is close to home for most members, and a great place to shakedown your salmon gear. Historically, this port sees early season action. Stick baits in close have always been popular early, if the fish are there, it's just a matter of finding them and figuring out what they want.

Southern lake Michigan is next up for DAS skippers and crews. May events in St. Joseph and Grand Haven have been highlights on our trolling schedule for many years. Coho's, King's, and Lake Trout typically make up the catch depending on how the spring weather plays out. It's not uncommon to catch big spring Kings in southern Lake Michigan.

In June we hit Harbor Beach on June 2nd. This tournament has evolved into a popular destination and crews have landed some great catches. We give the salmon a break and encourage all boat skippers to participate in our 'Special People' outing June 9th at Toledo Beach Marina on Lake Erie. This day we treat special needs individuals to a morning of walleye fishing which is followed by a picnic. The marina provides slips for DAS skippers, and our members volunteer their time and efforts to host a memorable day for these remarkable individuals.

We head back to Lake Michigan in July and August in pursuit of adult Kings. On July 14th we visit Holland, Michigan, for the second consecutive year. Holland has been a consistent producer of big summer Kings. The first weekend in August marks our return to Ludington and the following weekend we fish the nearby port of Manistee. Early August marks the peak of the Lake Michigan season. These ports offer tremendous near shore structure and hold staging fish.

For our last trolling tournament of the season, we make a return to the northern Lake Huron port of Rogers City August 25th in search of late season Kings. It's been a number of years since the club visited Rogers City. Reports indicate a rebound in the local salmon population. DAS skippers and crew will scour the waters in search of mature Kings.

While the number of fish caught in the great lakes was off last year, the size of the fish caught was truly impressive. A 40 pound king was recorded for the first time in years. The number of fish over 30 pounds was also up and baitfish populations continue to rebound. From my vantage point, 2018 looks to be a great year for DAS skippers and crews. If you have your own boat, please join us. If you would like to crew on someone else's boat, please let us know.

Tom Gorguza

Bad Dog

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Detroit Area Steelheaders



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Currently: 185 Members

NEW MEMBERS

BRYAN BOCK
RAY BOSWELL
DON EVAN
JEFF MEIER
STEVEN PROUT

RENEWED

RABIH ABDALLAH
ROBERT BUTKIEWICZ
DENNIS KELLEY
DAVID MAYFIELD
PAUL NOWAK
MARK PARADISE
LUKE PARADISE
RONALD PISARSKI
DICK SHIRK

DUE THIS MONTH

DANIEL CHISHOLM
HERMANN CHRISTOPH
CHARLES DENNING
EDWARD HILL
SCOTT KUZNIA
ANTHONY LEWIS
TIM PRATESHLER
ANDREW STOCKTON
BRUCE TURNAGE

1 MONTH PAST

BRIAN BRENTON
ROBERT COSTIN
RON HUEY
JON LOTARSKI
RUTH SMITH
CHRISTOPHER A. TURAK
CARL VENTIMIGLIA

2 MONTHS PAST

JOE BRYNE
CHRIS CAMPBELL
DON CLARK
BILL FOSTER
GARY MONGER
DAVID ROMAN
DAN STEWART
RANDY WEED



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Membership, Donations &
Appropriations
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Website, Facebook
586-588-4551

CHRIS TURAK

?
586-979-4898

CARL VENTIMIGLIA

Wild Game Dinner
586-615-7459

JIM ZANKE

Special People, Shows, PA System
586-489-2041

Tackle Matters



This unseasonable early thaw means we are very close to being able to fish the open water right now. In fact I see a lot of boats are out already. This should be a good motivator to get your equipment ready and start thinking about the upcoming season. If you have not already done so, get your preseason boat safety inspection done now so you won't miss any action.

The tackle raffle attractions for

the March meeting are shown in the picture above. I have not decided yet what the main attraction will be but I will come up with something good.

Thanks to Jim and Rich for running the raffles last month and thank you all for supporting the raffles as well as you do. With your continued support we can keep the ball rolling with really good raffle prizes.

Dan Chisholm



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

Membership Application

- ☐ New Member - \$35 Yearly ☐ Renewal - \$35 Yearly
☐ Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly ☐ Address Change only
☐ Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter)

Amt. Paid \$ _____

NAME		DATE	
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP		HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
BOAT NAME		E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Assistants

LINDA BANBURY
Special People

MARY KARAKAS
Special People

ADAM PLANK
AOTY

LEXINGTON TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Saturday April 21, 2018

WHERE: Lexington Municipal Marina Park adjacent to Marina

SKIPPERS MEETING: 5:30 a.m. - **TOURNAMENT START:** 6:30 a.m.

FISH CALLS: Channel 72 (9:00 a.m.) and (noon) - **PULL LINES:** 1:30 p.m.

WEIGH-IN: 2:30 p.m. (must be in line by) Park adjacent to Marina

PORT CAPTAIN: Dan Chisholm (Channing) 586-530-9171 Cell

REMINDERS: Lake Trout- Size 15" minimum, Creel 3.

The Detroit Steelheaders begin our tournament season in Lexington this year. Just a short drive from Detroit and you can make it a one day up and back if you wish. Lexington has a beautiful harbor with lots of slips but if you plan to reserve a slip you should do it soon. Our tournament falls on the same date as the very popular Lake Huron Spring Fling tournament. It will be a busy harbor so plan to get there early and pre-fish the area if you can.

There is the beautiful Lakeport State Park just a short drive away if you wish to camp for the weekend. The State Park System now takes reservations up to six months in advance so do that early also.

Get the boat ready, clean up your gear and strip your lines for the beginning of the season.

It's time to renew your Michigan fishing license

Your fishing license is valid from March 1 of a given year through March 31 of the following year. If you fish in Michigan you must purchase a fishing license if you are 17 years of age or older. If you are under 17, you may fish without a license, but you are required to observe all fishing rules and regulations. Turning 17 at any point during the current season (April 1 - March 31)? You'll need to buy a license once you do!

When fishing, you must carry your license and the identification used to purchase that license and exhibit both upon request of a Michigan Conservation Officer, a Tribal Conservation Officer or any law enforcement officer.

As of March 1, 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed an electronic license that allows an individual to display an electronic copy of his or her fishing license using an electronic device.

Any adult actively assisting a minor must have a fishing license. People without a license can:

- Help land a fish with a net or their hands;
- Help unhook a fish;
- Set up the fishing rod with the appropriate gear;
- Bait the hook;
- Fix tangles or snags;
- May cast the line for young anglers; however, it should be stressed that the young angler must be an active participant while the person assisting is only assisting;
- If the individual assisting did have a fishing license there would not be any issues and you would be supporting Michigan's aquatic resources for future generations

Reprinted from the 2018 Michigan fishing guide.

Manistee Metro-West Spring Steelhead Challenge

WHEN: Saturday, March 24th, 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WHERE: Big Manistee River Watershed

WEIGH-IN: Must be in line by 5:00 PM, Location to be determined

PORT CAPTAIN: Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073 Cell

REMINDERS: Steelhead only, Creel 3.

On March 24th we have our annual river, pier and surf competition against the Metro West Steelheaders. This should be peak season for spring steelies. If you are an experienced steelhead fisherman, or interested in learning new techniques, this is a great event. DAS club members will receive AOTY points based the weight of three steelhead, while our two clubs compete for the traveling trophy based total weight of steelhead caught. The \$5 per man big fish pool is open to members of both clubs. The big fish winner will be determined by weight of the largest steelhead brought to the scales. DAS Members and guests are required to pay a \$5 entry fee but only members whose dues are current, are eligible for angler of the year points. Dinner for the two clubs will be provided at the weigh-in. Call Bob Paradise if you plan to fish.

Tips 'n Tricks

Copper Leader Length

By Capt. Ernie Lantiegne

Since, 2004, when I wrote the first Great Lakes Angler article on fishing copper in the Great Lakes this technique has become widespread from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario. Age old, copper line has been used for years by lake trout trollers to "jerk line" lakies off the bottom in Adirondack lakes like Lake George and the Finger Lakes in central New York. Today's Great Lakes copper line trolling techniques are a mix of the old and the new...The basics are pretty straight forward, but one thing many do not agree on is the length of leader that should be fished on copper. Let's take a look at this. Once the system evolved to effective copper reels and rods with ample backing and unlimited leader length, my focus switched to the question..., "How much leader?". It made sense to use leaders that were effective, yet efficient. Efficient as possible meant getting lines in the water and fish in the boat quickly, i.e., quicker out and quicker in, the shorter the better. Effective as possible meant using whatever leader length it took to generate the most strikes and hook and land the most kings, no matter how long the leader had to be.

After fishing with some of the best captains on Lake Michigan who used 100', 20# mono leaders on leadcore, I tried the 100' leaders. They caught kings with spoons, dodger/flyes, and flasher/flyes and generated as many hits on copper as any leader length I have ever used. But, it takes time to put 100' of leader in the water. Ditto for landing fish on long leaders. Were 100' leaders necessary? Could I fish heavier than 20# leaders, especially late in the season with attractor/flyes?

That's when I started experimenting. Fishing up to 7 copper rods at once, there was plenty of opportunity for testing. To keep it simple, and knowing I needed the benefit of some stretch to avoid "strike shock", I eventually settled on trying leader lengths of 30', 50', 75', and 100'.

What I learned was that effective leader lengths for spoons and attractor/flyes differ. Trolling spoons, there did not seem to be much difference in the effectiveness of leaders once they exceeded 50'. Trolling spoons on less than 50' of leader seemed to be less effective. There also did not seem to be any difference in fishing 50' of 20# leader with a spoon or fishing spoons on 50' of 30# leader plus an 8' 20# leader. Because of the durability of the 30# leader, I settled on the latter, using 8' of lighter leader to enhance spoon action/effectiveness.

Trolling attractor/flyes, I found no difference between 20# and 30# leader and opted for the more durable 30#. I also found that 30' of leader was as effective as longer leaders. However, I compromised and decided to use 50' of 30# leader for attractor/flyes, so the same leader could be used for fishing spoons.

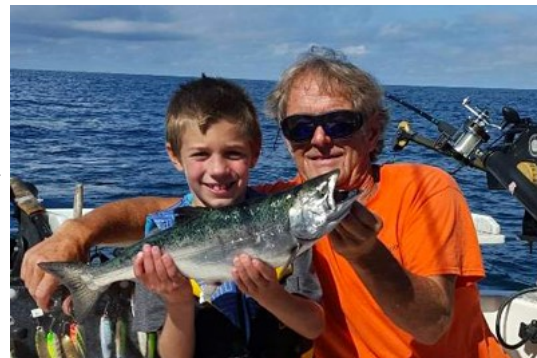
The final result of my nonscientific, non-statistically valid, seat-of-the-pants, personal 48-year evaluation;

Spoons – 50' of 30# leader plus 8' of 20# leader.

Attractor/flyes – 50' of 30# leader

With up to 6 copper lines at a time fishing from boards, plus another down the chute, using the same 50' length of 30# leader on every rod makes my life simple, and simple catches fish!

The undisputable fact is, though, that I've never generated more strikes and caught more fish than when fishing spoons and attractor flies on 100' of 20# leader. Common sense tells me there is no way that much leader is necessary, but "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" In my case, though, as a charter captain, a shorter 50' leader is a practical compromise of efficiency, effectiveness, and durability.



Captain Ernie Lantiegne has 22 years experience as a NYSDEC fishery biologist/manager, working in northeastern New York and the Finger Lakes area. He also served as Executive Director for the Adirondack Conservation Council. He started guiding in the early '70s for trout and salmon on Lake George, and has since chartered on the Finger Lakes, Lake Champlain, and now Lake Ontario. He has 30 years experience fishing Lake Ontario and its tributaries for salmon, trout, bass, and walleyes since 1977.

Wild Game Dinner Recap

Our 19th Wild Game Dinner was the best one yet thanks to the Country Smoke House, Michi-Gun, Lombardo's Taxidermy, Polish Cultural center, DAS board, Joel Piatek of Fish Headz charters, and all the volunteers who helped everything go so smooth. I truly feel Chef Jeff and the rest of the Country Smokehouse team knocked it out of the park. When preparing a meal for 500 people and keeping the same results as cooking for a family of four really shows these guys are talented, I would recommend the Smokehouse to anybody looking to step up their event, as long as it's not the same day as ours. Michi-gun as always handles our crowd great and brings the right product to keep our guests buying tickets. Big thanks to Rich and his team for continued support of the Steel-

headers. What game dinner wouldn't be complete without a great taxidermy display. If you are looking for the best work around go check John Lombardo out. I know a couple of our guests will because John generously donated a couple of gift certificates to us. For an event like this to go off as good as it does it takes a lot of prep and planning most of the year. Then when the big day comes the rest of the board who was there puts in big work to make this dinner a great success. Now that it's in the books it's time for us to spread our hard earned profits to great causes and organizations and further help promote, protect, and preserve the resources in this great state of Michigan.



Your dinner Chairman
Carl Ventimiglia



March Guest Speaker

Our March speaker is Captain Joel Piatek of Fish Headz Sport Fishing Charters. Captain Joel makes his living fishing Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair and Detroit River's. With over 30 years' experience fishing and hunting the area, Captain Joel knows where to find the hot bite. He uses the latest methods to target Perch, Walleye, Bass, Musky and Sturgeon. His presentation will cover Spring fishing when we experience our best walleye fishing with the migration of some 4-10 million walleye on their way from Lake Erie and the Maumee River in Ohio. This is the best time to vertical jig a wall hangin' 10 pound walleye. Having grown up on the St. Clair Flats, Captain Joel is a hardcore outdoorsman. His deep devotion for the outdoors has evolved into a hunting and fishing addiction that keeps him busy all year long. His enthusiasm for fishing comes across in his presentation. If you plan on attending our March meeting, be prepared to grab the net!



FISH HEADZDoing it in the 'D'

Victorinox 12 inch Salmon Slicer

If you are looking to add to a new fillet knife to your arsenal, you might be interested in this upcoming club raffle. Three lucky winners will be selected from a maximum of 100 tickets at our May meeting. Tickets are \$5 each and proceeds will be used to supplement our Special People event.



The Victorinox Fibrox salmon slicer is well suited to filet and skin medium to large fish. It features a long fluted blade which is perfect for preparing large fillets. The flexible fluted blade allows it to move easily along the backbone and under the skin of fish. Whether sea bass, salmon, tilapia, or trout, the razor sharp fillet knife will work quickly to get it ready for the barbeque or grill. The length of blade is easier to control and makes it possible to take the entire skin off most fillets with a single pass without having to saw back and forth, creating a less desirable cut. Special thanks for this generous donation from club member Don Jasman.



Shirts and Hats

The 2018 Annual T-Shirt will debut and will be available at the March meeting. This year's shirt is a tag-less, 100% Cotton, pocket tee. Four colors on the back highlight all the destinations we have scheduled for both trolling tournaments, and AOTY outings. Small through XL sizes are available for \$17. XXL and XXXL sizes are \$18 each. Sizes and available inventory are limited to what is on hand. Fitted ballcaps will also be available until the current inventory is sold. Hats are available for \$20 each.



February Speaker Recap

Our February speaker was long time DAS member Captain Mark Williams. Mark talked about some of the small details that easily get overlooked, line and terminal tackle. If you want to increase your chances of success everything between your rod and hook, need to perform flawlessly. The Silver Addiction fishing team is fortunate to have sponsors help out with equipment, and they provided some swag for his presentation. Everyone in attendance at the February meeting received samples of line or terminal gear. We thank Mark for his presentation and the generous gifts he brought along.

Detroit Area Steelheaders
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Hgts, MI 48311-1255

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

**PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
 LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974**

Membership Expires:

We're on the Web:
www.detroitsteelheaders.com

2018 Angler of the Year Leaderboard

Members name	St. Lukes 1/27/18	Bay City 2/10/18	Manistee River 3/24/18	Brown Trout 4/24/18	Walleye Algonac 5/12/18	St Clair Whipping 6/16/18	Linwood Walleye 7/7/18	Sterling St Park 9/15/18	Platte Betsie PM 10/6/18	Big Tom 10/27/18	Lake Shore 11/3/18	Caseville Lake Trout 12/8/18	Total Points
Blaise Pewinski	5	4											9
Gaspare Aragona	0.5	5											5.5
Jim Paehlig	4	0											4
Bob Paradise	0.5	3											3.5
Louie Balaze	3	0											3
Adam Plank	2	0.5											2.5
Dan Chisholm	0.5	2											2.5
Paul Gjeldum	1	1											2
Don Mikros	0.5	0.5											1
Carl Ventimiglia	0	0.5											0.5
Dennis Harper	0	0.5											0.5
Kurt Nofz	0.5	0											0.5
Paul Nowak	0	0.5											0.5
Steve Genoff	0	0.5											0.5
Tom Gorguze	0.5	0											0.5

Upcoming 2018 DAS Key Dates

Sat March 24, 2018 Manistee River Outing
 Tue March 27, 2018 General Membership Meeting
 Tue April 10, 2018 BOD Meeting
 Sat April 21, 2018 Lexington Trolling Tournament

2018 February Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance: 52
Featured Guest: Capt. Mark Williams
Featured Presentations: Whats at the end of your line.
50/50 Raffle Winner: George Vidusic (\$125)
Every Member Draw: Anthony Dzbanski (not Present)