



# Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume I, Issue 3

April 2017



## Boat Trolling Season Is Underway

April marks the start of our 2017 Trolling Tournament season and the annual "Skipper of the Year" (SOTY) competition. DAS trolling tournaments target salmon and trout, and focus on having competitive fun, camaraderie, safety, and helping each other improve our fishing skills. The tournaments follow DNR rules, with additional rules such as maximum 9 rods / boat, and maximum 20 miles from port. Skippers should have a minimum 16' boat, a working VHF radio, and be current on their dues. Complete rules are posted on the DAS website:

[http://detroitsteelheaders.com/downloads/DAS\\_Tournament\\_Rules\\_17.pdf](http://detroitsteelheaders.com/downloads/DAS_Tournament_Rules_17.pdf)

There is a pre-tournament "Captains Meeting" on Saturday mornings before the start of each tournament. Each boat captain, or a designated representative, must attend the "Captains Meeting" to register for the event. The cost to participate in a tournament is **almost free**, only **\$10 per boat**. This modest fee includes a nice lunch for all at the weigh-in. At the weigh-ins we like to weigh all your fish (the data gives an indication of how good the fishing is), but only your best 5 fish are counted for scoring. Plaques are awarded to the top 3 boats in each tournament. We will also have optional Big Fish pools at each tournament. The Big Fish pool will be **\$20 per boat** and is broken down into **3** separate pools - **\$10 for Big King**, **\$5 for Big Steelhead** and **\$5 for Big Lake Trout**. In the event there is no Big Fish entered for any individual pool, the winner of that pool will be decided by a random drawing.

This year we have 7 trolling tournaments at various ports on lakes Huron and Michigan. The 2017 Trolling Tournament schedule, with detailed information about each port, is posted on the DAS website: <http://detroitsteelheaders.com/events.html> Captains will be competing for the annual "Captain of the Year" award. Points are acquired at each tournament. A captain's four best tournament scores will be tallied for his annual score.

Our first tournament is coming up on April 22 at Port Sanilac on southern Lake Huron. We have added a short summary on page 7 of the first two tournaments with information that might be helpful for each skipper.

### February Membership Meeting

- **When:**
  - Tuesday, April 25 2017 7:30pm
- **Where:**
  - American Polish Cultural Center
  - NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Speaker:**
  - Jim Chamberlin
- **Other Happenings:**
  - Upcoming Angler of the Year Outings, Tackle Raffles, 50/50 Raffle, Every Member Drawing, Wild game dinner
- **DAS On the web-**
  - [www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com) Post to the message board and check out the entire site.

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Currently: 170 Members**

**New Memberships** *Welcome!*

SCOTT KUZNIA                      TIM PRATESHLER

**Re-Newed Memberships**

RONALD PISARSKI      GARY D. RUPRICH      ANDREW STOCKTON

HENRY BACZYNSKI              DANIEL CHISHOLM      JOHN GESING      EDWARD HILL              GILBERT L. PIESCZAK

**Memberships Expired 2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:**

CHRISTOPHER A. TURAK      DALE HOEPFNER      MARK GAZDA      ROBERT BUTKIEWICZ

**1 Mo. Ago First Reminder:** CHARLES DENNING      JUSTIN HERBERT      HERMANN CHRISTOPH      ANTHONY LEWIS

**This Month:** DARRELL SMITH      LOU BACSIKIN      JEFFREY BUSTOS      RICHARDE.BARCH      NORM DAVIES

STEPHEN G. GENOFF              ROBERT M. JONES      GARY ROWOLDT      JAMES P. LEGENZOFF      THOMAS OSENTOSKI

**Detroit Area Steelheaders is on Facebook**



We are selling raffle tickets for an engraved Cutco slicing knife to raise funds for the Special People outing. It was donated by club members. The knife is engraved with the DAS logo and has a lifetime warranty. Tickets are \$5 each and will be available at the April and May membership meetings. A winner will be drawn at the May meeting.



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.**

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

**Membership Application**

- New Member - \$35 Yearly
  - Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly
  - Renewal - \$35 Yearly
  - Address Change only
- Amt. Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



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**734-751-1767**

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Website, Boat Trolling  
**586-531-9198**

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Membership, Donations &  
Appropriations  
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Wild Game Dinner  
**586-615-7459**

**JIM ZANKE**

Special People, Shows  
**586-489-2041**

**Don Jasman**

Publicity, River Surf and Pier, Shows  
**586-292 3120**

**Assistants**

**LINDA BANBURY**  
Special People

**MARY KARAKAS**  
Special People

# Upcoming Speaker

Jim Chamberlain from Fish with Jim Outfitters, will be our guest speaker. Jim is a year around fishing guide from Mancelona, MI. Jim specializes in fall salmon and steelhead fishing in Michigan and Ohio's famous steelhead alley. He plans to talk on 2 fisheries in Michigan. Beautiful Torch lake with its Atlantic salmon fishery and Grand Traverse Bay jigging for Lakers, whitefish and Cisco. Jim also has some trolling tips for Grand Traverse Bay. This will be a fun packed presentation and something you won't want to miss. See you all there.

Blaise Pewinski



# 2017 Boat Trolling Tournaments

Date	Port	Port Captain
<b>April 22</b> (6:30am - 1:30pm)	<b>Port Sanilac</b>	<b>Dan Chisholm</b>
<b>May 6</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm) plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club??	<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>Blaise Pewinski</b>
<b>May 20</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm)	<b>Grand Haven</b>	<b>Jim Zanke</b>
<b>May 21</b> (6:00am - 11:00am)		
<b>June 3</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm)	<b>Harbor Beach</b>	<b>Paul Gjeldum</b>
<b>July 29</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm)	<b>Holland</b>	<b>Chris Turak</b>
<b>August 12</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm)	<b>Ludington</b>	<b>Joe Von Grabe</b>
<b>August 26</b> (6:00am - 1:00pm) plus Fish Off vs. Flint River Valley Steelheaders	<b>Manistee</b>	<b>Bob Paradise</b>

## 2017 DAS Meeting and Event Calendar

RED font = "Angler of the Year" Outings  
 BLUE font = "Captain of the Year" Trolling Tournaments  
 BLACK font = meetings and other events

March	7	Board Mtg
	11	Wild Game Dinner
	25	Big Manistee Rivershed Outing vs. Metro West - Bob Paradise
	28	Membership Meeting speaker, Tim Pratschler
April	1	Island Lake Trout Outing, Anthony Lewis
	8	St Clair River Outing & Algonac Fish Fry, Tom Gorguze
	11	Board Mtg
	22	Port Sanilac Trolling Tournament, Dan Chisholm
	25	Membership Meeting speaker, Jim Chamberlin
May	29	Lakeshore Brown Trout Outing, Bob Paradise
	6	St Joe Trolling Tournament vs Huron Valley, Blaise Pewinski
	13	Whipping Outing Marine City, Carl Ventimiglia
	16	Board Mtg
June	20 - 21	Grand Haven Trolling Tournament, Jim Zanke
	30	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	3	Harbor Beach Trolling Tournament, Paul Gjeldum
July	10	Special People, Dan Chisholm & Rick Janis
	13	Board Mtg
	27	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	8	Linwood Walleye Outing, Don Jasmin
August	11	Board Mtg
	25	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	29	Holland Trolling Tournament, Chris Turak
	12	Ludington Trolling Tournament, Joe Von Grabe
September	26	Manistee Trolling Tournament vs Flint & Fishin Michigan, Bob Paradise
	29	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	12	Board Mtg
October	23	Lake Erie Pearch Outing, Sterling State Park, Chris Nytko
	26	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	10	Board Mtg
November	14	Manistee Pier Outing, Bob Paradise
	24	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	4	Lakeshore Manistee River Steelhead Outing vs Metro West, Bob Paradise
December	7	Board Mtg
	28	Membership Meeting, speaker TBD
	9	Caseville Trout Outing, Blaise Pewinski
	12	Board Mtg
	19	Membership Meeting, Salmon Claus

# Tips N Tricks

## Jigging Tips 'n Tricks

Walleye jigging on the St. Clair and Detroit River is good fun! I'd like to share a few things I've learned about vertical jigging.

Keep the nose of the boat into the wind. You will need a pretty good electric trolling motor with a remote control fob or foot pedal that you control your direction with. Once you're on the water, position the electric trolling motor down into the water. The nose of the boat should be pointing into the wind. It's great if you have a depth finder, but not a must. If it's a morning start, your drift should be close to shore for a couple of drifts. If no action, move out a little to deeper water. Fourteen foot of water is a good starting point. You should be drifting with the current.

Let your jig down into the water until it hits bottom.

Click your bail closed.

Now give the jig a quick lift up about 12 inches and hold it until the line tightens straight.

Then, lower it down until you feel a little thump off bottom. Keep repeating this action through your drift. (90% of strikes will come on the drop)

During your drift, your line must be vertical for best results. If your line is not going straight up and down, you're not vertical. When your line starts going on an angle, you must follow the angle with your trolling motor until you become vertical again.

### ***I call this process "chasing your line ASAP"***

I recommend you always start with a 1 ounce jig. Once you get comfortable with the 1 ounce jig, you may want to lighten up to 5/8 jig.

Happy Jigging and Good Luck!

Gaspare Aragona

## Brown Trout Outing

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will be fishing the 26th Annual Lake Shore Cup Brown Trout Tournament. This year's tournament will be held on Saturday April 29th, 2017 at the Lake Shore Motel in Manistee. The entry fee is \$30.00 and must be paid by 10:00 P.M. on Friday, April 28th, 2017. The person who catches the largest Brown Trout by weight takes possession of the Lake Shore Cup for 1 year, receives a plaque to keep and gets first pick from the prize table. Cash and merchandise prizes will be determined by the number of paid entries and will be raffled off before the 50-50 drawing. You do not have to have a fish to win cash, but you must be present at the awards banquet held at the East Lake Hall at 6:30.

### Rules:

1. Entry fee paid in cash and registered before 10:00 P.M. April 28th, 2017. Please enter in the lobby of the Lake Shore Motel.
2. You may start fishing at 5:30 A.M. April 29th, 2017.
3. The categories are Brown Trout, Lake Run Rainbow (Steelhead), Lake Trout and Salmon. All species of Salmon will be entered into the Salmon category. In the event of a tie a toss of a coin will be used as a tiebreaker.
4. Boat fishermen must register and enter every individual who will be aboard the vessel. A tournament participant must cover all rods trolled.
5. Weigh-in is located at the Lake Shore Motel between 4:00 and 4:30 P.M. April 29th, 2017.
6. You may fish anywhere in Michigan waters including Lake Michigan using only "legal" fishing methods. (DNR Regulations Apply)
7. You may only enter one fish in each category: Brown Trout, Steelhead, Lake Trout and Salmon.
8. The committee will handle all necessary decisions and they will be final.

Book accommodations at the Lakeshore Motel - Phone: (231)723-2667

Come and join the fun. First and foremost please be safe. Remember, the water is cold. The fish are hungry. Good times, good friends, good stories. This event will count towards Angler of the Year. Hope to see you there & Fish On!

Call Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073 for more info.

# Chefs Table

## Baja Walleye Taco

### Ingredients:

Vegetable oil, for frying  
 1/4 red cabbage, thinly sliced (about 1 1/2 cups)  
 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, roughly chopped  
 Juice of 1 lime, plus wedges for serving  
 2 tablespoons honey or agave nectar  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
 Kosher salt  
 12 corn tortillas  
 3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
 1/2 teaspoon chili powder  
 Freshly ground pepper  
 1 1/4 pounds skinless Walleye fillet, cut into  
 2-by-1/2-inch pieces  
 1 Avocado  
 1/2 cup fresh salsa

### Directions:

Heat about 3 inches vegetable oil in a medium pot over medium-low heat until a deep-fry thermometer registers 375 degrees F. Meanwhile, toss the cabbage, cilantro, lime juice, honey and mayonnaise in a bowl. Season the slaw with salt.

Warm the tortillas in a skillet over medium-low heat or wrap in a damp cloth and microwave 25 seconds. Wrap in a towel to keep warm.

Mix the flour, chili powder, and salt and pepper to taste in a shallow bowl. Dredge the fish in the flour mixture, then fry in batches until golden and just cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer with a slotted spoon to a paper-towel-lined plate to drain. Season with salt.

Halve, pit and slice the avocado. Fill the tortillas with the fish, avocado, slaw and salsa. Serve with lime wedges.



## The Shirts Have Arrived

The 2017 annual DAS t-shirts (pictured below) will be available at future meetings and events. Garments will not be offered on an internet store this year, and availability is limited to sizes on hand. These are quality garment dyed, ring-spun tees. Long sleeve shirts are \$23.00 each. Short sleeve shirts are \$17.00 each.



## Spring Steelhead Challenge

We had a good turnout for the steelhead challenge. A total of 10 D.A.S. members showed up for the outing, and around the same number of Metro-West members also made it. A few of the fishermen showed up Friday morning to pre-fish on the big Manistee river. The fishing was ok considering the water was still a little cold for the big run of steelhead. We decided to fish Suicide Bend for the outing because there was about 10 fish caught there on Friday morning. Saturday, Gaspare and I started at 6:00 AM and did not stop fishing till 4:00 PM. Gaspare broke one off first thing in the morning but redeemed himself 5 minutes later with a 4lb steelhead. Around 8:00 AM Bill Foster joined us. An hour later Bill hooked up one but broke it off on 10lb test line. I never got a bite all day Saturday, but hooked 3 on Friday in the exact same spot. Paul Gjeldum picked up a nice hen by the 55 bridge, but had to release it because it was foul hooked.

The weigh-in and lunch was hosted by the Metro West guys at a beautiful cottage on Pine Lake near Wellston. Our DAS guys struggled Saturday while the Metro-West crew landed 8 or 9. So the traveling trophy goes to the Metro-West team. Bill Foster won the big fish pool, and first place points for the DAS Angler of the Year. He caught his 13lb 4oz steelhead by the dam. Gaspare had second with his fish. This is always a fun event, so next year let's try a little harder to win back that plaque.

## Island Lake Outing

### Greetings fellow Steelheaders!

On April 1st, we had a fun group outing at Spring Mill pond in the Island Lake Recreation Area. The DNR releases large brook stock trout in the pond for an early catch and release only season. DAS had a large turnout for the event. I believe 18 members made the trip.

The fishing was a little slower than normal but we had a good time. I managed to catch a 21 inch brown on my first cast but it was the only hit I had all day! Most members caught one or two trout and Dennis Harper caught four nice ones. .

However, Gasper Aragona caught one tied for the biggest fish and also caught the 2nd biggest. He takes the angler of the year points for his 22.5 and 23.5 inch brown trout. Gasper hooked a big trout on a rapala but broke it off. Then a few minutes later, Gasper hooked a big fish on a spoon. Unbelievably, when we got the fish close to the net, we saw the distinctive rapala in the big brown's mouth. Don Jasmine came in 2nd with a nice 23.5 inch brown. Chris Ventimiglia came in 3rd with a 22 inch beauty of a rainbow.

Member Ruth Smith brought a hearty breakfast casserole that was appreciated by all. It was a nice to have a few minutes to get out of the cold water and socialize. Thanks Ruth!

After the outing, we grilled brats and made some nice fellowship time. All in all, it was a nice morning of fishing with good friends, food, fish, and some neat wildlife sightings.

Fish On!

Anthony Lewis  
River Master :)



## Upcoming Tournaments

**Port Sanilac - Sat. April 22, 2017** – We haven't held a tournament out of this Thumb port in about 15 years, since the crash of the Salmon fishery in Lake Huron in 2002. This port & Lexington to the south 10 miles were DAS Spring favorites for many years. If the weather does a normal warm-up, you can expect to catch good numbers of Coho, Steelhead & Lake Trout with a few Kings, Browns, newly-introduced Atlantic salmon & even some Walleye possibly mixed in. Our tournament rules allow fishing a 20 mile radius from the home port and there are plenty of good areas along the shoreline from about Lake Port State Park south of Lexington to the creeks north of Port Sanilac up near Forestville. Your GPS will help you stay within the 20 mile limit if you decide to do some exploring of the southern Lake Huron shoreline. One particular area that has good structure and can hold fish is off of Camp Cavell approximately halfway between Lexington & Port Sanilac as well as off of Mill Creek about 3 miles south of Lexington. Body baits such as Bomber Long 'A's, Rapala Husky Jerks & Reef Runners have traditionally worked well on Lake Huron in the spring. Good colors are silver/black, gold/black, gold/orange & Fire Tiger among others. The fish will most likely be in the shallower water less than 35' but depending upon water temperatures might be in deeper water.

**St. Joseph - Sat., May 6, 2017**-May is just around the corner, and I hope we experience some of the best fishing Lake Michigan has to offer in St. Joe. It was my favorite big Lake port the last 4 years. Each spring it serves up silvers and trout to our DAS boat crews. The last few years have been a little trying to say the least at this port. 2012 and 2013 were a couple of the coldest winters I can remember, and that weather trend caused major problems for bait fish everywhere in the lake. Alewives don't survive very well when the water gets colder than 40 degrees, and those 2 winters Lake Michigan got much colder than that. In 2014, 15, and 16 the lake never warmed up enough by the time we got there to bring feeding kings near shore to feed on the few remaining alewives. This year should be different. The warmer than normal winter, coupled with plenty of rain the last 2 months should help bring some fish in the area. With all that runoff, I think the pier head would be a good spot to find big kings searching for bait. Top baits could be Thin Fin's, Rapala's, Hot 'n Tots and an assortment of your favorite spoons. I like to troll south out of the harbor towards the Fermi power plant in 25 to 40 FOW and search for the warmest water. That's where you will find kings most of the time. I have also done well trolling the bottom for lake trout the last 2 years. The trick to catching trout is to stay close to bottom but not drag your cannon balls on the rock shoals if you know what I mean. Dodgers, and spin in glows are the ticket to chunky trout. I hope we have a great turn out and the lake cooperates.

May 6 is the date. West basin marina is the place. The skippers meeting is 5 AM with the tournament to start at 6 am. Fish call time will be announced at skippers meeting. Plan to have a good meal after the weigh in. See you then or talk to me at the April members meeting

Blaise Pewinski

Sea Hag

248 890 4517

### Upcoming 2017 DAS Key Dates

Sat April 22, 2017 Port Sanilac Tournament  
 Tue April 25, 2017 General Membership Meeting  
 Sat April 29, 2017 Manistee Brown Trout Outing  
 Sat May 6, 2017 St Joe Tournament  
 Tue May 16, 2017 BOD Meeting

### 2017 March Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance: 58  
Featured Guest: Tim Pratschler  
Featured Presentations: Big Lake Tournament Trolling  
50/50 Raffle Winner: \$110 Gil Tiesczak  
Every Member Draw: \$100 Ruth Smith (Not Present)  
 !!!!April Meeting is Draw until we have a winner!!!!

### Angler of the Year 2017

Event	Top Three Places						
2/11/17 Higgins Lake	Carl Ventimiglia 5	Carl Ventimiglia SR 3	Tom Gorguze 1				
3/25/17 Manistee Steelhead Challenge				Bill Foster 5	Gaspere Aragona 3		
4/1/2017 Island Lake Outing						Don Jasman 3	Chris Ventimiglia 1
Total	5	3	1	5	8	3	1

«First Name» «Last Name»  
 «Street Address» «2nd Address Line»  
 «City», «ST»  
 «ZIP»



Membership expires: «Renew Date»

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

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Detroit Area Steelheaders  
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