

DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY THE DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2

March 1978

BUCK RYDER LANDS TROPHY

Clinic a big success

After hearing advice from Larry Serafin, Dick Swan, Tom Schneider, George Riedel, Lance Hinatsu, Ralph Hay, Jim Mattus and Elton Luckritz, those in attendance at the Betsie River Clinic, February 18, took to the river to try their luck. Except for the temperature, it was a beautiful day. Temperature, however, is as important in steelhead fishing as in any other, therefore not many fish were taken.

Buck Ryder, an expert fisherman in his own right, showed that knowledge and perseverance pays off. Buck managed to land two beautiful steelhead. He received a trophy, which was presented by President Elton Luckritz at a banquet that evening.

The trophies were donated by area restaurant owner Jim Mattus, the owner of the Holmstead Dam Resort.

It is hoped that next year's clinic can be held a couple of weeks later to ensure warmer weather, so that each participant can feel the thrill of landing a fish. The more than 55 fishermen at this year's clinic shows the value of this type of outing.

Steelheaders' Spring Show

LOCAL CHAPTER SETS THE PACE

The biggest and best of the MSSFA Spring Shows will be held March 25 in Bloomfield Hills when the Detroit Chapter tells it all at its seminar. River fishing and trolling, surf and pier fishing will be covered completely with dozens of clinics. Where to fish and when; the newest lures, tackle and equipment; table after table full of displays; a completely outfitted boat; and an opportunity to purchase the best at very reasonable prices.



BUCK RYDER MANAGED to land 2 beautiful steelhead on the Betsie River to win trophy at the Clinic on the Betsie.



HARDY STEELHEADERS IN ACTION at Betsie River Clinic held February 18.

Around the state, other Chapters have incorporated the clinic and seminar concept to add an educational aspect that has greatly increased interest and attendance. This specialized teaching technique was pioneered by the Detroit Area Chapter in 1976. It was so successful that all chapters were encouraged to use these methods to actually demonstrate how to catch more fish on streams and when trolling. Expanding on this teaching apsect are the Detroit Chapter's on-river clinics. Observers not only see and try various lure and bait technquies, but learn firsthand the best equipment, and clothing and how to recognize productive parts of streams.

Each year there seems to be more and better equipment demonstrated at the shows. Some chapters even have fully equipped and ready-to-go boats on display while answering the many questions about trolling. The only sad note this year is the absence of the Steelheader Tackle Shop. Chapter members had a large selection of tackle, lures and equipment to browse over and could make purchases at bargain prices. I hope politics wasn't the only reason the tackle shop was discontinued.

The tackle shop demise has been replaced at some chapter shows with the introduction of "swap shops". Members can trade-for or buy quite a bit at bargain prices. Also there are vendors with perhaps an even better selection than before to choose from. These booths introduce the newest and most popular lures and equipment — usually with bet-

Continued on Page Three /...

FISHIN' TALES Published Monthly by **Detroit Area Chapter** of the

Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association

> 6315 Archdale Detroit, Mi. 48228

The views expressed in this paper are those of the Chapter Members and the Editor. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Chapter Members of events which affect the Sportfishermen. It is our intention to teach, inform and guide the members to respect and appreciate the Great Lakes, Rivers and Land around us.

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WITH THE KING

FISH

THE RIVER

ST. JOE

Chapter elects new Officers, Directors



VICE-PRESIDENT, Murrell Blackburn (left)

PRESIDENT, Elton Luckritz (right)



JERRY LEE (left) Chairman of "Fund Raising" STEVE HAMILTON (right) Chairman of "Membership"



Starting Dec. 1

616-362-3760

COMING

DETROIT CHAPTER SUPER SPRING SHOW

Saturday, March 25

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

March 28 April 25 May 30

RIVER TOURNAMENT AuSable River

April 8 Contact: Tom Schneider 264-2818

BOAT TOURNAMENT St. Clair River April 29

describeration of the contravolution of the

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Place Your

Show features seminars, clinics and more

ter prices than found at retail. There is another way a great many lures and a lot of tackle is made available to members this year. About every 15 minutes, there's to be a drawing for a minimum of \$25.00 worth of lures and tackle. A raffle ticket sells for a buck and it stays in the hopper throughout the show. In addition to that, there are separate drawings after each group of 10 memberships are signed up.

I've been fortunate in being able to attend the shows statewide in '77 and six so far this season. All are much more informative and interesting. All have had a much larger attendance and new members have increased substantially at all the shows. I believe the reason for the successful show season is local (chapter) supervision. Now that the chapters make most of the decisions, there is much more member interest and participation.

The local Steelheaders are much more aware of how to prepare and present features that are most popular in their region. To date it seems 1978 is going to be bigger and better for the Michigan Steelheaders.

- John Makela



Members boost Chapter at Boat Show

Once again, members of the Detroit Area Steelheaders came through and made a lot of raffle money selling chances on our Starcraft boat. Our second appearance at the Greater Detroit Boat Show, through the generosity of Acme Boat display space, netted us \$1276.00.

Many of the old timers in the club again donated their time, came down to Cobo Hall and hustled raffle tickets. Thanks go out to the new guys who got down and found out that it's fun, and have since volunteered to work Outdoorama and our own Spring Show on March 25th, and to the members who pitched in and gave talks at the fishing seminar.

The Chapter wishes to give special recognition to guys like Bob Crosby and John Beer who were hesitant to speak on fishing at first, but gave an excellent presentation; guys like Dave Geistler, Chuck Straud, Dwayne Meyers, Bill Jewett, Ken Fischer and Gary Gray, who came down more than once, to fill in when we were light on volunteers; gals like Laurie Lattimore, Carol Blackburn, Chris Lindbergh, Linda Hamel and some of the other wives who again showed the guys just how it's done; and to guys like Jim Hardin, Tom Warrow, and Dennis Van Sickle who really hustled on their shift and turned in the largest day's receipts. (Wait until Jewett and Meyers hear that, they'll take it as a personal challenge!)

THANKS AGAIN,
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS!!

sacraces

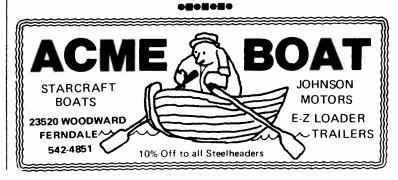
Be A Happy Hooker!

Most artificial lure fishermen are a lot more lure conscious than hook conscious. That's fine until they get a big fish on, then it's the hook that holds the fish, not the lure.

All top-line lures are fitted with hooks of the finest steel, but even the finest hooks can be broken. In fact, the harder the steel, the more likely it is to be broken when the lure is bounced off a rock, or gets other rough treatment.

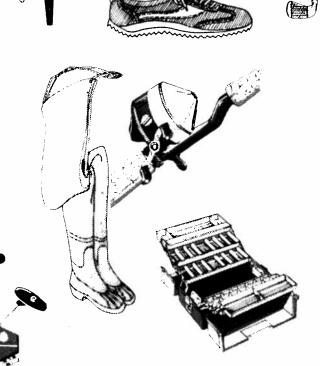
Another way a hook can fail is when the point is smashed or dulled. Many of our top gamefish, such as the Coho, Chinook, Bass or Pike have tough mouths and hooks must be needle sharp in order to penetrate properly. A hook can't do that if it has no point or if the point is bent over.

Every angler should check frequently to make sure every hook on his lures is perfect. Even on lures with many hooks, every point should be needle sharp because one never knows which hook will be the one that will connect him to that once-in-a-lifetime fish.



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New Yorker finds Michigan Tourney to his liking

"Tournament Fishing? Not me! I fish for fun," I've heard it. You've heard it. Perhaps you've said it. I have -- until last year. No More. I'm hooked. I still fish for fun--but tournament fishing IS fun. It's educational. It's exciting.

I suppose that I've always had a latent desire to participate in fishing tournaments. I did, at least, since I heard of the big BASS tourneys down South. After reading of the latest event in Texas or Georgia, I would dream of competing with the 'big guys': imagining the respect and admiration my old fishing buddies would have. I was safe in my dreams however: those tournaments were too far away to challenge any mental bluffs I may have had. Dreams -- that's all they were.

The introduction of salmon into the Great Lakes, and the subsequent organization of Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen changed all that. Tournament competition came to my backyard. Even though I had moved to New York, my fishing partner, Sid Kolongowski, still called Michigan home. We had grown up together, shared hours of companionship in pursuit of panfish, bass, trout, and steelhead. Naturally, when Sid discovered salmon, I was given a royal introduction to his new-found love. After one weekend in Ludington, I was as enthusiastic about salmon as my partner. Additional trips only amplified that initial enthusiasm. We became addicts: new gear, new techniques, and, of course, membership in the MSSFA.

The MSSFA brought a new dimension into our fishing. We started talking about tournaments. In the beginning it was mostly negative: the entry fee was too much; too many complicated rules (we quessed); competing with 'those pros' would take all the fun out of it ... it went on and on. As we continued to discuss this aspect of fishing however, the negative complexion faded. We realized that we wanted to get into the tournaments. We didn't know proper

protocol--and were sure that the rules required an attorney to decipher-but we decided to try it, at least once, if for no other reason than to prove we could.

The first step was to pick one of the MSSFA-sanctioned tournaments. For several reasons, we settled on the Pentwater contest, slated for late August. Once that decision was made, we were committed. Excitement grew as we began making preparations for the big day. Sid sent for the rules and an application for entry. Our fishing trips became more and more educational as we paid closer attention to tackle and fish handling techniques. A detailed record of each trip was recorded on an inexpensive cassette tape recorder. We kept track of water temperature, trolling direction, bottom characteristics, the depth and type of lures, fish caught and lost. An analysis of each lost fish was recorded on the spot. Trip reports were studied in detail between fishing excursions. We learned, our productivity increased dramatically. Additional knowledge came from hundreds of fishing articles. We read, studied, exchanged information and encouragement through the mail.

By the end of July we had accumulated a list of tackle and gear which we felt necessary to compete successfully in the tournament. A stockpile of our favorite lures topped the list: a spare battery for the boat, spare line, trolling plate. We had also acquired team shirts and jackets which mysteriously added to our confidence. We were ready ... we thought.

The call came in the middle of the week. It was Sid. "We need two more guys."

"For what?"

"For the tournament. We need a three man team, plus an observer."

Sid sent me a copy of the rules and other documentation he had received from the tournament director. Discouragement in capital letters. Most of the documentation referred to previous tournaments to explain protocol. We were new to this game and didn't understand. The rules proved to be readable however. and became the one bright spot in the package. It was very clear that we needed a third man on the team. Our problem was to find that third man.

The team was finally rounded out with the addition of Roy Kolongowski, Sid's cousin. We had just enough time left to make two shake-down trips before the big day. The second trip, just three days before our scheduled departure, was a disaster. We had to be towed into port by the Sheriff. At this point it looked like the tournament would have to be scrubbed.

Somehow, we managed to replace the stripped drive coupling in the I/O unit with only one day's delay in our schedule. Excitement was riding high as we made our way from Goodrich to Pentwater. We managed to get in two hours of fishing the evening before the contest started. It was our first trip to Pentwater so the short cruise did little more than provide some familiarity with the terrain immediately surrounding the port entrance.

We camped at Pentwater State Park. It seemed like the whole park was filled with fishermen. Everybody spoke fishing. Strangers would stop at our camp, eager to tell about lunker fish and broken tackle. Names weren't important. We shared enthusiasm, swapped war stories, and wished each other luck. The night went fast -- much too fast.

Morning. Sleep didn't linger. We were wide awake before the alarm could develop its full potential of rude interruption. Warm sleeping bags gave way to chilly shirts and pants: a quick trip to the showers. No more time left-the tournament was about to begin. Too late to back out now. Not knowing what to expect, we headed for town-and our first meeting with the competition.

Continued on Page Ten/...



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AUSABLE RIVER TOURNAMENT April 8, 1978

Sign up at the March meeting, or contact TOM SCHNEIDER at 264-2818. The meeting place will be at Desi's near the Foote Dam site. One (1) trophy will be awarded for the largest catch of steelhead, and there will be trophies for the three largest steelhead (one trophy per Steelheader). There will be a minimum entry size of 18".

COLD WATER SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES

Reading this could save your life!

When the salmon and lake trout move into the shallows, fishing fever sometimes overrules common sense among small boat operators on the Great Lakes. Seemingly unmindful of pending storms or the limitations of their boats, many fishermen are concerned only with the fishing, but each year, a certain number of them wind up swimming instead of fishing.

Except in summer, water temperatures are low, survival time in the water is short, and those who find themselves in the water are faced with some difficult odds.

The predicted survival time following immersion in 50° F. water (Lake Superior frequently has colder spring and fall temperatures) is about 2½-3 hours, but this will vary depending on body size and extra fat. However, a sudden dunking in bitter-cold water quickly increases the heart rate and blood pressure. This occasionally causes death from heart attack or a ruptured blood vessel, particularly when older people are involved.

Hypothermia is the culprit behind most cold-water deaths, for once the body temperature drops to a point where vital organs can no longer function (usually about 85° F.), the victim loses consciousness and dies of heart failure. Any action which slows down the rate of cooling can mean the difference between being alive and dead when rescue boats arrive.

The following suggestions, if followed, will measureably increase the rate of survival for fishermen who suddenly find themselves in the water.

- 1. Unless shore is nearby, stay still! The average person in a life jacket cools off 35% faster when swimming than when remaining motionless, and tests conducted in 50° F. water showed that the average person can swim less than one mile before hypothermia incapacitates him. When life jackets are not worn and treading water is necessary to keep afloat, tests show the cooling rate is 34% faster than while holding still in a life jacket. In addition, certain types of life jackets give much more protection against the cold than others, and fishermen would do well to investigate the insulating capabilities of all styles and brands.
- 2. The head, sides of the chest, and the groin are parts of the body which have the highest rate of heat loss, but certain floating positions can help retain body heat and increase the predicted survival time as much as 50%. The preferred position simply involves holding the inner sides of the arms tightly against the chest and raising the thighs as high as possible to protect the groin. If two or three people are in the water, they should cling to one another, keeping their chests together as tight as possible.
- 3. Once rescued, a victim of hypothermia should be warmed externally with hot water bottles, a hot bath, or electric blankets, and internally with hot beverages . . . but not alcohol!! In fact, a person who is "under the influence" before being immersed in cold water will experience a 20% faster cooling rate than would a sober person.

Although these suggestions could help you survive a cold-water dunking, the best tip of all is to stay in the boat! Anybody with common sense and an eye to the weather can do it!

Editor's note: This article was written by David "Mac" Frimodig, DNR Region 1 Information Officer, Marquette.

Cook's Corner

SALMON SAUTÉ

2 Med. Onions

2 Tablespoons olive oil

4 salmon steaks (about 16 oz.) *

¼ cup wine vinegar

In skillet cook onion in olive oil 'til tender, but not brown. Remove from skillet; set aside. Drain oil from

skillet. Add salmon to skillet. Cook uncovered, over medium heat 3 minutes. Turn salmon; cook 3 minutes more. Add onions and vinegar. Cover; simmer 2 minutes or 'til hot. Serves 4.

* Key to any fish recipe lies in cooking the fish just 'til it flakes.

Anne Makela

Thank you!

- **★ Dick Swan's Custom Rods**
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As a member of the Detroit Chapter you benefit from these companies, so remember when you walk into their place of business, tell them you are a member of the Steelheaders and thank them for supporting our club.

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(Fund Raising)



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THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN RAFFLES!

Detroit Chapter holds 3rd annual sportfishing show

The Detroit Area Chapter of the MSSFA will hold its Annual Spring Fishing Clinic/Seminar on March 25th at East Hills Jr. High School, 2800 Kensington Rd. at Opdyke (M-24, Lapeer Rd.), Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

More than 2,000 interested fishermen have attended this show each year, which is not surprising considering what is offered. No other fishing clinic has available more experts on sport fishing than the Detroit Chapter Spring Show. With more than 700 members, the Chapter draws from the best steelhead and salmon fishermen in the U.S.

The public will be able to see the latest equipment from tackle manufacturers, and a series of booths, manned by some of Michigan's best fishermen, demonstrating stream fishing and lake trolling equipment. Other demonstrations include egg curing, spawn bag tying, rod building and graph reading, plus the best lures for all types of steelhead fishing. Chapter members who fish every weekend will be on hand with the most accurate, up to date reports on the best places to fish around the state.

Thousands of dollars in door prizes will be raffled, and special raffle tickets on a completely outfitted 18ft. Starcraft Mariner with 55hp. Johnson, trailer, graph, downriggers and rods will be available for purchase.

Keep March 25th open! Come to the 1978 Detroit Area Chapter Spring Fishing Show!

(SEE MAP ON PAGE 3)



- BOAT
- HOME
- AUTO
- BUSINESS
- LIFE

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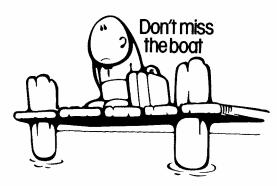
645-1300

Alliance Underwriters

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\$6,000 Rig Awaits Winner!

1978 Boat Raffle



The Detroit Area Chapter's Third Annual Fishing Boat Raffle is the biggest yet.

The total package will have a retail value of about \$6,000, including all accessories.

The boat that was chosen for our raffle is an 18 foot Starcraft Mariner. It will be equipped with a 55 h.p. electric-start Johnson and a Pamco trailer. This fine fishing rig will be completely equipped for Great Lakes fishing with two downriggers, a new graph and two Eagle Claw rods and reels.

When it is raffled off at our April meeting, it will have been inspected and approved by the Coast Guard Auxiliary for up to three fishermen. The boat will also be equipped with a horn, fire extinguisher, anchor, three personal flotation devices and a ring buoy.

There will be FIVE PRIZES for those selling the most raffle tickets. Last year's winner, Bob Kring, sold 95 books to win the top prize.

Members, please
RETURN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!
If you haven't sold them,
bring them in so they
can be used by others.

Raffle tickets available by calling me at 542-9073

Jim Boyer, 1817 Barrett, Royal Oak, Mich. 48067

Allen urges CB channel 29 for boaters'use

To the Editor:

It's a well-known fact that millions of automobiles are now equipped with CB radios. Going largely unnoticed is another CB phenomenon — more and more boats are being equipped with CB radios than ever before.

Obviously, the average boater-fisherman simply cannot afford to spend the \$300 to \$800 needed to outfit his rig with a marine band VHF radio, hence CB becomes the practical choice.

Those who can afford VHF almost always have a CB aboard, primarily to exchange boating and fishing information more informally and in greater detail than is possible or permitted on the marine band.

Muskegon Lake and surrounding Lake Michigan ports make excellent use of CB—especially in the fall when the channel they adopted years ago literally crackles with salmon information. On the other hand, Lakes Huron, Erie and St. Clair and Detroit-area inland lakes are major disappointments to area boaters equipped with CB.

Tourism is a vital Michigan industry, yet when visitors request boating frequency information from REACT

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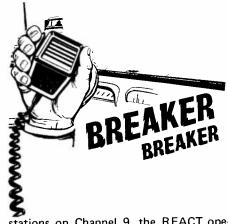
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stations on Channel 9, the REACT operator is usually at a loss because as a state, we do not have a single designated boating channel. I find this incredible! Are we the "Great Lake State" or aren't we?

I am suggesting that we take the lead and do whatever is necessary to adopt and designate one CB frequency as the official statewide boating channel. I further propose that one of the new upper channels — channel 29 — be so designated for the following reasons:

- The new upper channels are still relatively low-traffic frequencies.
- "Landlubbers" have not grown deep roots to any of these new channels yet.
- The lower 23 channels are so congested that it would be impractical to adopt one of these at this late date.

- Almost anyone can afford the new 40-channel sets now selling for under \$90.
- Channel 29 follows a logical numerical progression of 10 from the already designated Emergency channel 9 and Mobile channel 19.

Additionally, it would be most fitting to add a third line to the CB information signs that now dot our Michigan freeways. Following the words "State Police CB 9" and "Mobile CB 19", let's add "Marine CB 29".

I feel confident that if the MUCC, the State Tourist Council, boating and fishing clubs, outdoors writers, our state representatives and senators, etc., were to give this proposal their consideration and support through some kind of legislative action, it would be another step in making Michigan a little friendlier and more attractive to all who use her vast water resources.

Gilbert B. Allen 18603 Gaylord Redford, Michigan 48240

1978 MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Bonnie Brook Country Club

March 28,1978 April 25, 1978 May 30, 1978

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TWO FIELD TEST REPORTS

Members score good results with Silver Horde plugs

I first saw the SILVER HORDE plugs in Oscoda, the weekend of our Chapter tournament. These plugs really impressed me, so I phoned in a rush order. Within two weeks I was dragging them past the pier heads in Oscoda, taking 9 kings and 1 brown that weekend. I closed out the year with two trips to Lake Manistee. I highlined the 3" and 4" Silver Hordes with the same great results on both salmon and steelhead.

The plug itself is shaped a lot like the J-Plug. It can be ordered with either fixed or sliding hooks. The body and paint are indestructible. I couldn't even find a tooth mark on the lures.

The Silver Horde Company stocks 150 different colors or they will custom paint any plug for a slight charge. The plug comes in seven different sizes, from 3" to 7" in length.

My hottest lure was the 4" Mylar No. 409. It has a blue back with clear sides and prism paper insert.

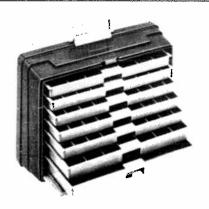
This company also has a fantastic selection of dodgers and spoons in sizes and shapes that I had never seen in Michigan.

So, if you trollers have cabin fever as bad as I do and want to look through a good catalog, write to: Silver Horde Fishing Supplies, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Lynwood, Washington 98036 or talk to Clay Garrett at our Chapter meetings. He usually has some on hand.

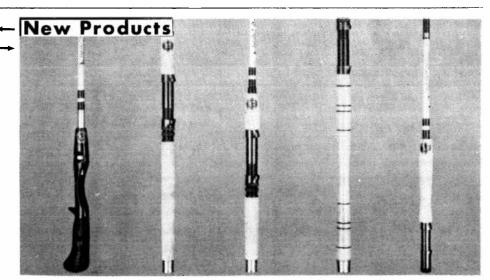
- BILL MUIRHEAD (The Hobo)



TIM AND DENNY ESKRA with a beautiful day's catch of 5 steelhead and 4 kings. They were taken early in October on Lake Manistee, using Silver Horde Plugs. Denny used both high lines and downriggers with equal success.



PLANO MOLDING CO. has a new Model 7777 that has 90 compartments in 7 worm-proof drawers to handle all types of baits. The pull-out drawers in the "Quad 7" are 1½" wide and 1¼" deep, offering more room than any other box of its type. By changing drawer arrangements, fishermen can accomodate nearly any bait storage problem. Front panel drops down and slides under drawers for handy work surface. The box features Stay-dri ribs for bait protection, a large, rugged handle, sturdy bail-type latch, and is made of top quality ABS material. Dimensions are: L19" x W9½" x H13 5/8".



WRIGHT & McGILL, makers of Eagle Claw fishing tackle, announces the introduction of a complete new line of fishing rods: StarfireTM. Attractive blue and gold wraps coated with "Sealflex 100®" and the yellow high density tubular glass finished to a hard luster give these mid-priced rods a distinguished look. Five casting models with either the new lighter worm action or modified impact tips, ten spinning rods, six trolling rods, and three fly rods make the Starfire TM line well rounded. Of course, the extras that have helped make Eagle Claw famous are included. Extras such as; mini-ferrules for eliminating flat spots on two-piece rods, ceramic guides to prevent line friction, contoured foam grip magnesium handles for spincasting/casting rods, new rear screw reel seats for fly rods and nickel hookkeepers.

Fishing Facts — Fishing

Judge Boldt never ceases to amaze the fishing world. Did you read where Boldt's decision is being reviewed by a three-judge federal panel this month? Meantime, in the late December, Boldt did it again to the steelheaders in Washington. Ready? Put on your waders for this one!

Boldt closed four Washington rivers to fishing steelheads for Indians and non-Indians. Washington Fishery Department said that the Indians already had taken about 5,200 of the 8,000 available steelhead. Now since these waters are closed, the Steelheaders don't even get a shot at their share of the fish.

It is becoming so one-sided in Washington that the Indians are even beginning to feel quilty about Boldt's rulings.

The Indians are Voluntarily Reducing their steelhead activities, trying to reduce tension! They eliminated their netting on several rivers. The numbers of fishing days were cut back from five per week to three per week on other rivers!

Biologists believe their haul will be the same regardless - it will just be more evenly spread out.

Put on your waders again!!! While these netting reductions are taking place -Indian leaders are getting their old giant Fishwheels out of moth balls (some 50 years old) and plan to install them again where heavy runs of Salmon and Steelhead are found. These wheels take huge numbers of fish from the water in a short time. Sportsmen fought the use of these wheels many years ago - and won. Now Boldt's decision has encouraged the Indians to consider their use again. Take another bow, Judge George Boldt . . . and please bend way over when you do it!!!

During the Cobo Boat Show I spoke with a C.O. very familiar with the Indian netting in the Charlevoix area. He related how badly assembled the Indian nets are. The Indians tie their sections of nets with any 'ol string, or line they can find. Even their lead lines to their buoys are often so inferior that they will break loose, leaving a gill net on the bottom to fish forever! He said he would hate to estimate the "dead" gill nets fishing forever on our lake bottom. Isn't that a great thought? He also reminded me that there is no market for salmon, the Indians just pick them out of their death nets and toss them back into the drink!

For the lighter side: I recently sent an ad to be published in a Washington Based Fishing Magazine for my Guide Service in Michigan . . . "GO EAST - NORTH-WEST STEELHEADERS...FISH MICHIGAN--" This will blow their steelhead minds. "In 1976, Michigan Steelheaders caught THREE TIMES MORE steelheads than did California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska combined"!!!!!

- DICK SWAN

REMEMBER ...

The deadline for April FISHIN' TALES

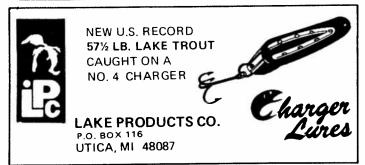
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TOURNEY FISHING IS FUN!

.../Continued from Page Five

The restaurant slowly filled as we ate breakfast. One table was surrounded by white team jackets, another with blue, and still another with red. Thirteen teams in all. Real people, friendly, with a common interest -- fishing. The morning raced by. Breakfast was over. The tournament director and boat captains met for a final run-through of the rules. Suddenly, it was time to start.

We hadn't brought an observer so Sid and I fished with a one-man handicap while Roy observed on another boat. The stranger who boarded our boat felt like an old friend by the time our first lure hit the water.

We spent four hours on the water, under overcast skies and intermittent drizzle. The score was: two fish in the box, six lost fish, and two lost J-Plugs. Tomorrow, we felt, would be a much better day.

Unfortunately, the second day of fishing was cancelled because of foul weather. Although we didn't win any money, we didn't finish last. More importantly, we learned some of the ropes of tournament competition. We'll be back again this year with more confidence, more experience, and better preparation, looking forward to the challenge of competition.

- JOHN SANTY



THE CLUB Hot Line

291-8249

WEEKLY "HOT" TIPS ON WHERE TO FISH

and

THE LATEST CLUB NEWS

USE IT!



Don, Dave, Barney and Al go fishing . . .

It was Thursday evening at 5:00 when Don left his office in a hurry, in order to be at Dave's by six so that he, Dave, Barney and Al could load the motor home, hitch up the boat and head for Manistee. The Chapter Tournament was scheduled for Saturday and they wanted a full day's head start locating the fish. They planned to be out by noon Saturday, and quench their thirst while the rest of the chapter washed baits, cranked downriggers, and heated the lake to a foam in vain.

By 6:30 p.m. the beer was packed on ice, the booze and mix was stored away (not without having been amply tasted to ensure freshness) — they were ready to go.

Dave fired the buggy up and down the road they went.

It was about three miles later when Barney went after some beer that he noticed they'd left something important behind---the boat.

A few unpleasantries were exchanged as they turned around to get the missing boat.

Finally all was triple checked and deemed ready, new drinks were poured and off they went.

About four hours and two fifths later, somewhere on M-55, between Cadillac and Manistee, Dave noticed the gas gauge was acting strangely. It had moved over to empty and beyond and wasn't moving. It was decided that Al was at fault so he was elected to try and siphon some gas out of the boat to last until Manistee.

Somehow this was accomplished and at about 1:30 a.m. they pulled into Instalaunch.

Sunrise found the intrepid crew busy loading rods, reels, lures and other necessities aboard.

Having decided all was ready, they left port and after a short run were out on the big lake. Lines were set and everyone settled down to await the first strike.

At about 8:00 Al yelled "Fish On!", as he grabbed the inside port rod, and fifteen minutes later a fine 8½ lb. laker was put in the box. While resetting the line a doubleheader hit on the starboard side and before they were boated, another single hit the reset line. For about the next hour all hands were busy setting lines and landing fish.

At 10:00 the action slowed a little and Barney went forward for some brew. "Hey you guys, where's the beer?" he hollered.

A frantic search produced nothing and then they realized they'd left the cooler on the dock.

All haste was made as they pulled lines and headed for port. A short time later as they approached the dock, there was the cooler. "Grab it as we go by," yelled Dave, "we'll save time."

As Al grabbed for the cooler, he realized that there was no way you could pull a cooler with 5 cases of beer over the side. "Help!" he yelled as he went over the side--one hand on the cooler and one holding his nose.

They fished AI out of the water, brought the beer aboard and headed back out to the fishing.

Dan went into the cabin to get the lines and Dave started screaming about a million fish on the graph. Dan emerged from the cabin with a sick look on his face as he brought out all eight rods and the biggest spider web any of them had ever seen.

Twenty minutes later, lines were cleared and rerigged—and the graph was empty. Dave pushed the throttle forward and the search began for that huge school of fish they had been over.

Two hours and three dozen baits later, Barney grabbed the port rod--and boated a seven pound pike; Dan followed suit ten minutes later with a trophy-sized clam and Dave boated about 300 yards of wire line.

The rest of the day did not produce any more fish; just a lot of blank graph paper and the cleanest collection of lures in port.

Sunset found them headed to port, sunburned, half-potted, disgusted and completely dreading the tournament to follow the next day.

As they pulled into the slip they were greeted by a brother member towing his boat out of the launch ramp.

"Hey," he yelled, "you guys pulling out tonight or first thing in the morning?" Dave, AI, Barney and Dan stared blankly. "Yep, I hear they're killing 'em in Frankfort. That tournament tomorrow should be great."

- Bob Mitchel

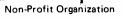
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MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PRAISE FOR FISHIN' TALES

John:

I just received my copy of the "Fishin' Tales" Annual and felt it proper to drop a line commending you on a real fine publication. You have by far the most informative of the many chapter newsletters I've read these past couple of years. Be sure and convey this to Garry Gray. He has done an outstanding job.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Walsh AuSable River Valley Steelheaders

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•••••• NOTICE •••

The "Swap Shop" and sales will be held after the membership meeting instead of during the membership activities.

From the Editor . . .

I'm sorry to admit the real reason for not having a February issue of Fishin' Tales was due to the lack of input from YOU, the members.

I realize that January and February are the two slowest months of the year, but this is the time of year when most of us have some free time to do the odds and ends that we don't have time for when the real fishing begins. Our club consists of some real HOT DOG fishermen who are very knowledgeable, but are afraid to let it be known. I feel that our newsletter is a good place to express yourself and let it be known who you are — besides, you're cheating your fellow members out of learning the same way you and I did. So crawl out of the woodwork and tell us about your tips or techniques and even where you have your best success, and be a part of our club not just a member. PARTICIPATE!

Color photos can now be used for our newsletter, even though they will reproduce in black and white!

THANK YOU, STEELHEADERS for helping us to prove again that we are:

"MICHIGAN'S SALMON/STEELHEAD HEADQUARTERS"

Now with 3 Great Stores to serve you, we want to eliminate any confusion as to why we're Michigan's Fastest Growing Sporting Goods Operation.



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