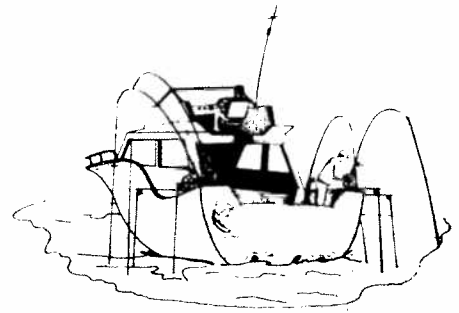




FISHING TALES



DETROIT AREA CHAPTER
MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY THE DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

VOL. IV • No. 4

APRIL 1979

\$10,000 rig goes on April 24 Don't miss out—this could be YOURS!

DON'T FORGET—April 24th, as well as being our regular monthly membership meeting date, is also the date of our "4th Annual Boat Raffle." The drawing is scheduled to be held at 8:30 p.m. during the meeting.

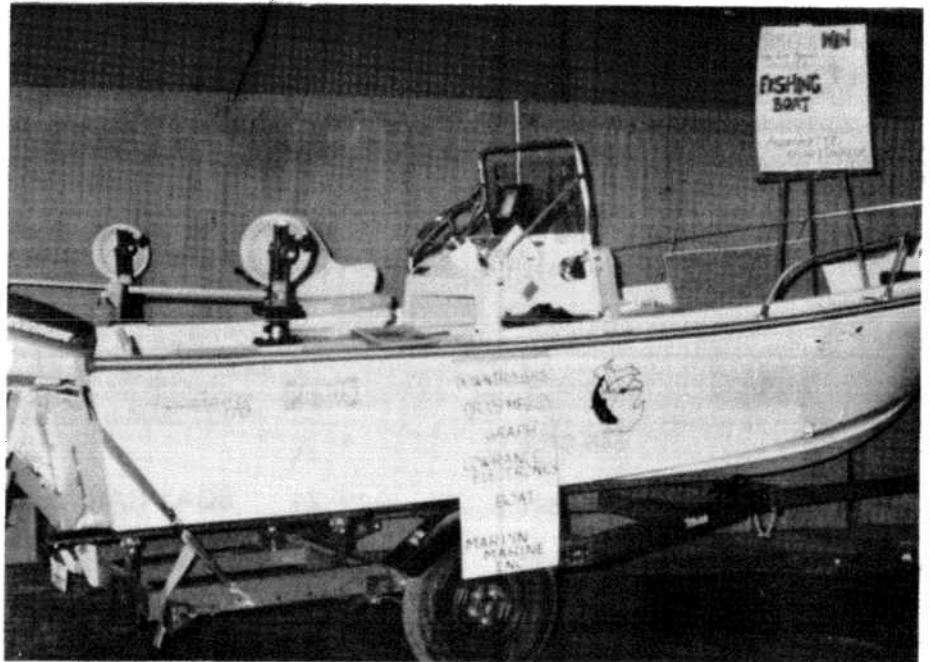
We still have a lot of members who haven't yet turned in their tickets. In order to have the drawing on time, you must turn in your tickets as early as possible the evening of the drawing. There are still tickets available for anyone wishing to buy another chance on this year's boat.

Five prizes will be awarded to the top ticket sellers at the May membership meeting. If you cannot attend this month's meeting, please send your tickets in to:

TERRY McCaffrey
1433 SELMA
WESTLAND, MICHIGAN
48185

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS
OF UPCOMING
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Our 1979 Raffle Boat, a beautiful, fully-equipped Aquasport 170 shown above, will be raffled off to some very lucky person at the April 24 Membership meeting. Featuring an Evinrude 55 h.p. motor, a trailer, two Proos downriggers, a Lowrance 1510-A graph, two rods and reels plus full Coast Guard-approved safety equipment, this rig represents a retail value of *nearly \$10,000!* At the same meeting, the name of the club member with the most raffle tickets sold will be announced, and the nice prizes that go with that honor will be awarded. Don't be shut out — if you need additional tickets to sell, call or write Terry McCaffrey (729-1889), Raffle Chairman. Also, don't forget to turn in any extra tickets so that they may be used by others.

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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All material for publication should be submitted to:

GARY GRAY, Editor
 6315 Archdale, Detroit, MI 48228

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"THE BAIT BOX"

APRIL '79

As you should know, the river tourneys are over for this year. While the fishing will get better as runs materialize, there is a method to our 'madness', the officers and directors feel strongly about not adding the pressures of tourneys on any river at this time of year.

While on the subject of tourneys, I was overjoyed at our last tourney to see our older members taking the new members in hand and sharing their knowledge. This is what the club is all about. A special thanks to John Tymenski for his fine job as Chairman, and I feel a special thanks is due to Keith Kempainen and George Ishimuru, who literally filled their boat with trash and were awarded a gift pack donated by Yakima Bait for their efforts.

Recent developments at the state level . . . The Pontiac Chapter will be the subject of a specially-called Director's Meeting to discuss their September 24 show and clinic. The State Board elected Jerry Blanton of the Pontiac Chapter, Art Ditmar of the Livonia Chapter, and Gary Gray of the Detroit Area Chapter to fill vacancies in the State Board from our area.

A great deal of thanks to our Spring Show Committee and all of the members who shared their time and knowledge to make our show the best in the state.

The recent developments in Pennsylvania have really had me thinking and to say the least, very worried. Has it ever occurred to you that nuclear power plants are built by the *lowest bidder*? Enough said.

I encourage comments, suggestions and **constructive** criticisms, to be voiced and answered through this column. Please send them to:

Bait Box
38704 Lowell Dr.
Sterling Hgts., Mi. 48077

— Tom Schneider, President

COMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday Nights — at Apr. 24
 Bonnie Brook Country Club May 29
 Telegraph & 8 Mile Road June 26

April 24 **BOAT RAFFLE & Membership Meeting**
 April 28 **Research Trip — Port Sanilac**

BOAT TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Place	Contact
May 26/27	South Haven (2 days)	Murrell Blackburn (295-0379)
June 23	Pentwater	Sid Kolongowski (636-2898)
July 14	Port Austin	John Trofmuk (781-5650)
August 11	Ludington	Terry McCaffrey (729-1889)
September 8	Manistee	Larry Atwell (644-4574)
	Ladies Day	(Time and place as yet undetermined)

Port Sanilac area is research target

The Port Sanilac Research Trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th, and we hope many will stay over for Sunday. Boats will be launched at the Harbor Marina. Last year, boats up to 24 feet were launched. This year there will be a launch charge of \$1.00 per boat. Make sure the attendant receives payment.

The harbor is still shallow and will not be dredged out until June 1. However, a narrow path will be marked so that boats may enter and leave the harbor.

It will be required that the skippers fill out catch logs on all their fish. These logs will be available at the ramp. This is the only way to get useful research data.

Last year, the best lures were J-11 and J-13 Rapalas, orange and gold, followed by Tadpollys, Fire-plugs, Northport Nailers and J-Plugs. The best fishing was found in 20 to 30 feet of water, ten to 17 feet down and 50 to 60 feet behind the cannonball. Six and eight pound test non-flourescent line produced the most hits.

You must use caution as there are many rocky shoals in this area. One mile north and 1/2 mile off shore, rocks are awash.

The weigh-in will be at the Marina after the 4:00 p.m. quitting time. Boats will be allowed to tie up to the docks. There will be a catered meal at a tavern in town (two blocks away), featuring hot dogs, beans and potato salad, all for a small fee.

I will be fishing the Port Sanilac area the weekend prior to the Research Trip, so anyone wishing to join me, please do so! I'll have a report at the April meeting for those interested in participating in this Research Trip.

— Steve Hamilton
Research Trip Chairman

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DNR HOTLINE

True sportsmen and other citizens concerned about fish and game violations can do something about it, says the Department of Natural Resources. If you can't contact your local conservation officer about a violation, call the DNR toll-free HOTLINE, 1-800-292-7800, day or night. If possible, try to provide a license number and description of any vehicles involved, and any other pertinent information. You do not have to give your name when calling.



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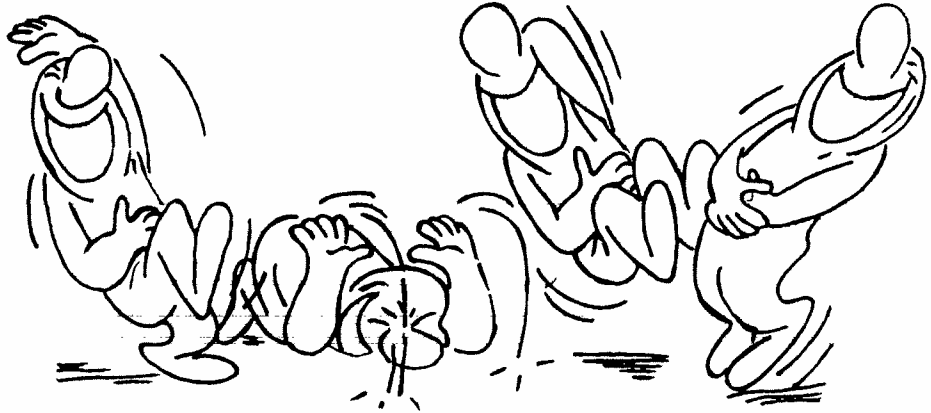
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DIANNE

DEWIS OTT —

Seven time World Light Line Champion, where are you?

SPRING RUN

BERNIE HALVERSON —

I'm still waiting for my last letter!

TOM NESBITT

D.N.R. —

The Detroit Area Chapter would like to thank you for finding Tom Fleming's stilts.

JOHN TYMENSKI —

John, it's a 4-wheel drive, NOT a tank!

TRAIL RUT COMMITTEE

JOHN RIELAN —

Wait until I see you!

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GLEN (FISH)

"CHEAP SHOTS" has been started to help aid in the cost of Fishin' Tales, published by the Detroit Area Chapter. If you have a "CHEAP SHOT", or a one or two liner you would like published in next month's issue, please contact Gary Gray, Editor, by mail or phone. "CHEAP SHOTS" are \$2.00, regardless of size. Your support is greatly needed to continue this column.

Thank You!
Gary Gray, Editor

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Super day-super tourney!

At 6:00 a.m. Saturday, March 17, 1979, seventy-four Steelheaders were packed into Desi's Taco Lounge in Foote Site, awaiting the team selection for the first AuSable River Round Robin Tournament. The tournament itself was a team effort, consisting of one member each from the Detroit, Saginaw and Au Sable River Chapters.

After the team selection was over, the Foote Site Grand Prix was underway. I was amazed that nobody got hurt or any vehicles got dented. The best race was to the east. Most of the guys headed to the popular downstream holes. The Boy Scout Hole, Christmas Tree Hole, Meadows, Narrows and the Kilmaster received 70% of the fishing pressure. From the dam to the middle of town, men were catching fish. What really made this day super was the weather which was sunny and warm. They raised the water about 9:00 a.m. and left it up all day. The end came at 5:00 p.m. with the weigh-in from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Oscoda Township Hall.


Everybody was milling around, looking for the other members of their team to find out how their teammates had done. A total of eleven fish over 18" were weighed in. With the technical aspect over, dinner consisting of hot dogs, chili and beer was served. Afterward, the results were announced:

First Place	H. Tomlinson (Det) J. Stepolkoski (Sag) H. Lahti (AuS)	8½ lbs. 8½ lbs.
Second Place	R. Nesbitt (Det) B. Rood (Sag) K. Walsh (AuS)	13½ lbs.
Third Place	W. Bongardner (Det) J. Schwind (Sag) M. Engel (AuS)	7½ lbs. 3½ lbs.
Fourth Place	P. Simson (Det) G. Riedel (Sag) D. LaFond (AuS)	7½ lbs. 3½ lbs.
Fifth Place	J. Lombardo (Det) G. Dupuis (Sag) D. Billings (AuS)	11 lbs.

A 36" tall trophy was presented to the AuSable River Chapter as the chapter with the most weight of fish per members entered. The final results were:

AuSable River Chapter	39½ lbs. of fish for 18 members
Saginaw Chapter	24 lbs. of fish for 17 members
Detroit Chapter	25½ lbs. of fish for 39 members

I would like to thank the AuSable River Chapter and Desi's Taco Lounge for their hospitality and warm welcome. Also, I'd like to thank the two guys who spent 3 hours Saturday morning helping me dig out my truck. — John Tymensky



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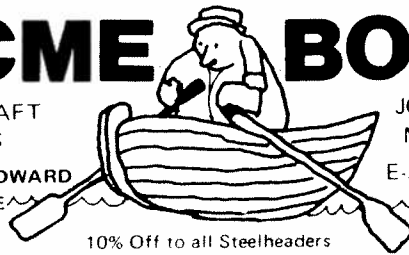
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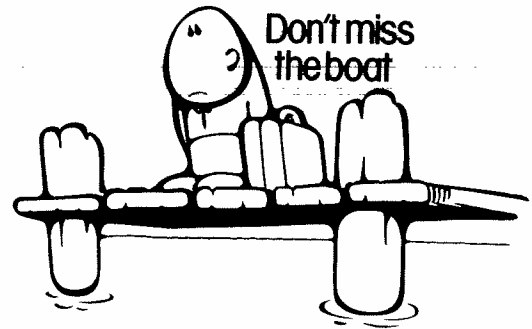
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1979 Boat Raffle



The Detroit Area Chapter's Fourth Annual Fishing Boat Raffle is the biggest yet!

The total package will have a retail of about \$10,000, including all accessories.

The boat that was chosen for our raffle is a 19-foot Aquasport; It will be equipped with a 55 h.p. electric-start Evinrude 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.

please
DON'T FORGET - -

Turn in ALL your ticket stubs!

Raffle tickets available by calling
TERRY McCAFFREY
at
729-1889

Early stream mouth trout action is great

Well, here it comes again. Just a few more days and the spring trout season will be in full swing. Some of the greatest action will begin at the mouths of streams entering the Great Lakes. Late March is usually the starting time for eager anglers.

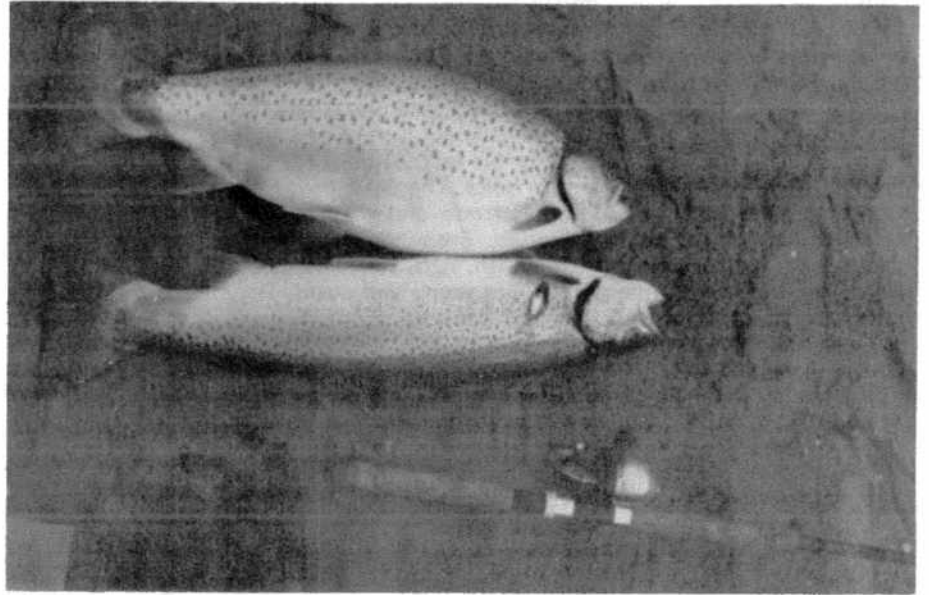
Even before the ice has cleared out, many trout, especially steelhead, are searching out their native streams. The smaller streams and creeks may be completely iced up during winter. But, come the first thaws and small areas of water open up, which allows some early fishing.

Bait fishing seems to produce more trout in the beginning of the season, but Little Cleos, Krocodiles and Rapalas can also take fish. If the ice is still around, bouncing a small spawn bag or wiggler down under the ice often produces a hit. Wary trout like to lurk just under the edges of the ice.

For the most part, these early fish aren't aggressively feeding. They will take a properly presented bait, though. As with river steelhead fishing, the offering must come very close to the fish, as they don't normally spend much energy chasing food in these frigid waters.

Run at least a ten pound test main line (because of the sharp edges of the ice), and off that, go down to a six pound or four pound test leader, depending on the clarity of the water.

Warming trends and off-shore winds can drastically change this sport. In a matter of hours, shore ice can separate from the beach and disappear further out into the lake. I stay away from the edges of open water, especially if there is cur-



THESE TWO BROWNS went for blue and silver Cleos cast from Lake Michigan shoreline waters in early April.

rent flow. Fish off the breakwalls or from the beach to avoid serious accidents.

After the ice melts, more fish will begin to show up near the stream mouths. Browns and lakers mingle with the steelhead. By mid-April, the wading fishermen really get into the action.

Casting 2/3 oz. Little Cleos from knee-deep water just before dawn is the way I begin fishing the stream mouth. It isn't necessary to wade out as far as you can in order to catch fish. In the dim light of early morning, often the trout are cruising the shoreline in less than two feet of water. A steady fast retrieve is best for producing jarring strikes.

The arrival of more fishermen, who insist on walking out deeper, begins to push the fish out away from shore. This, combined with the penetration of sunlight on a clear, calm morning, can really shut off the action. In such a situation, I either take a break for an hour or two, or I move off down the beach a good distance and fish the shoreline waters.

Near midday, most of the competition will have given up and left the stream mouth area till evening. And I, too, used to believe that early morning and evening were the only productive times to fish trout.

Continued on Next Page/...

ASU

SPORTSMEN!

All you boaters planning to get out early this spring . . . be sure to

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USE IT!

Early trout action

... /Continued from Page Six

Midday can really surprise you. Many of the browns and steelhead spooked earlier will move right back in close again if conditions are right. One of the best times for midday fishing is when the wind is coming from the shore. The slightly choppy waters turn over the shallows, which become murky or milky in appearance. A spawn bag buoyed by a small marshmallow can be deadly on steelhead under such circumstances.

I like to drop the rig just off to the side of the river current where it mixes with the lake water. The bait is basically stationary just an inch or two off the bottom, so the fish are moving to it.

The take of a steelhead is very light. I don't set the hook immediately either. When I feel a hit, I drop the rod down almost to the water surface, then pull up the slack gently. If I feel resistance then, I pull back and set the hook, but not very hard. With most trout, the hook will be well inside the mouth. If the trout aren't going for bait, change over to spoons. I've had good success in both clear, calm waters and in rough, cloudy conditions with these methods.

Blue and chrome-colored spoons are the best bet. With spoons, there will be no guessing about the strike, so set the hook hard (don't forget to sharpen them!). For me, spoons produce more browns and bait takes more steelhead. An eight pound test main line is a good choice for this spoon fishing, with no leader and no swivel.

A nice thing about browns is that they often hang in near shore long after most steelhead have entered the rivers,

New Yorker says: "Come on, Summer!"

Here it is February. Mid-February. Mid-afternoon. The snow started last night--about midnight. Since then about eighteen inches of light powder has covered the landscape. As far as the eye can see, it's white: the mountains, the roads, my driveway. The snow doesn't do much for me. I've never had a snow ski on either foot and the last time I straddled a snowmobile was back in '73. Nevertheless, I've got the twitches.

It all started the day before yesterday. I was down in the garage scrounging around for one thing or another when the strangest sound caught my attention. It took several minutes of investigation to discover the source of commotion: my favorite fishing rods were thrashing about, trying to break free of their rod holders. I was astounded! Fishing hadn't crossed my mind since ... was it as long ago as the end of January? Anyway, here

and the lakers have gone out to deeper water. Browns always seem to move around in loose packs, so when you connect with one brown, work the area over quickly, before the pack swims on. You stand a good chance of scoring with a couple more fish in short order.

Many trout fishermen I know get fed up with crowded upstream river fishing. If you have this problem on the river you fish, consider giving it a try where it empties into the big lake. The river mouth areas offer excellent fishing and in many cases don't get the pressure that hits upstream areas.

— Mark Lattimore
Field Editor

I was, surrounded by quivering fishing rods in the middle of February. What to do?

I reached out and picked nine feet of yellow fiberglass; very gently wiped the dust off. Memories came reeling in (no pun intended). Pentwater in August! Blue water spraying in the wind. The thrumming of wire, singing the song of the salmon hunter. My eyes glazed over. Six months and eight hundred miles melted away as my mind played in time past.

Several hours later my wife, Ann, rescued me from my reverie. I have to admit, however, that it was touch and go for quite a while. There was an uncontrollable urge to try on my rain slicker--and once I almost broke my leg jumping out of the chair when my neighbor yelled at his kid. I could have sworn he hollered "FISH ON!" It sounded just like my partner Sidney.

Finally, I recovered. One whole day! Then the phone rang. It was Sid Kolangowski, bosom buddy and long-time fishing antagonist. Our old familiar eighteen foot Sea Ray—BACKLASH—would carry us no more. The deal was final. In six weeks there would be a new BACKLASH: twenty-four feet long and two years of dreams high. The twitches came back. My left eye started to blink. I started to giggle. My wife thought I was nuts. I began to mumble incoherent phrases: six coolers ... electric down-riggers ... a real honest-to-goodness head ... enough room to tap-dance—if you felt like it. WOW! Come on summer! I'm ready!

— John Santy (New York)



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(1) New in box - \$725.00
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Al Lesh: 754-7689 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE - Aquascope 75 graph, new in box, with mounts & transducer \$195.00.
Telephone: 963-3328

FOR SALE - Book: *How to Prepare, Rig and Fish Natural Baits for Great Lakes*. Book consists of 70 pages with over 40 photos and illustrations. To purchase by mail, send 4.50 for book plus .75 postage, total - \$5.25 - by check or money order to: Merganzer Press, 659 Northmoor, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Book will be available at next membership meeting for review - See **Gary Gray**, Editor.

FOR SALE - (2) Electric Proos 24" downriggers with swivel bases & rod holders - \$334.50 - and - (2) Manual Proos 48" downriggers with swivel bases & rod holders - \$225.00.
Call **Joe**: 296-0323 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE - THE ULTIMATE FISHING machine. 1973 Aqua Sport Center Console w/135 h.p. Evinrude, folding spray hood, Vexilar 155 Video Sonar, 25 W. VHF Marine Radio, C.B. Radio, Robelo sun top, Perko outriggers, 2 Walker electrics plus 2 Riviera No. 400 downriggers, trolling speed indicator, depth thermometer, 2 heavy duty batteries w/switch, lines, anchors, life jackets, bumpers, etc. Tandem trailer w/surge brakes & electric winch. \$7,500.
Sid Goodfriend: (Bus) 545-1002

1979 MEETING SCHEDULE
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Bonnie Brook Country Club
April 24, 1979
May 29, 1979
June 26, 1979
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