



Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

August Meeting

- When:** Tuesday, August 30, 2011 7:30pm
- Where:** American Polish Cultural Center Northwest corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- Featured:** Joe Von Grabe, "Fishing Meat Rigs in Manistee"
- Other Happenings:** Ludington reports, Manistee I report, other Fishing reports, Tackle raffles, 75-25 Drawing & more
- Up-To-Date Information on the DAS website at:** www.detroitsteelheaders.com

Volume XXXVI, Issue VIII August 2011

Ladies Have Some Fun in Ludington

Captains and crews participating in the Ladies Day tournament enjoyed perfect weather conditions this year. Gentle breezes, no waves, temperatures in the upper 70's, and overcast skies that helped to prevent sunburns. Six boats were registered for the tournament at the 5 am captains meeting.

The tournament started at 6 am, with most boats heading north to the Big Point Sable area. On Vicki's Seacret, our plan was to start near the bathhouse and troll to the point. We set down at a depth of 55 ft, south-east of the bathhouse and were pleased to see the

fish finder light up with balls of baitfish and big fish marks. We started catching fish shortly after the start of the tournament. We caught our first King after getting only 3 lines in the water. Shortly after that we caught another King. We decided to circle back and continue fishing in the bathhouse area. It was a good decision, because we soon caught 2 more Kings. In the first hour we had boated 4 nice fish. We were having a lot of fun, the action was a thrill, and we were feeling good about our chances in the tournament. The action slowed as the sun rose in the sky, but we stayed



The entire group of Ladies showing off their DAS "Ladies Day" T-shirts

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Couldn't Make the July Meeting?

It was good to see President Bob Jones open the meeting at 7:35pm. Bob had just recovered from a tough infection and was glad to be back in action. As luck would have it, for the 2nd month in a row, our guest speaker had to cancel. Guide Doug Samsal was in the hospital himself but will try to reschedule soon.

Fresh from some charters in Ludington, Capt. Mark Williams had a timely report (At the time, the club was getting ready to head to the 2 Ludington tournaments) about what was hot and what techniques were working. Mark certainly had a wealth of info and all of the Skippers in attendance listened carefully and took good notes. Thanks Mark for a great presentation!

After the break, the Prez gave the floor to Al Wiechert. Al & Jason Adam volunteered for the Salvation Army's program that was teaching kids how to fish that had never had the opportunity. Al said that the look on the these kids faces

when they caught some fish made it all worthwhile. He and Jason enjoyed themselves as did the kids. It was a great cause to introduce these kids to the hows and whys of fishing. Thanks Al and Jason!

Bob Ksionzek took the floor and presented the details and plaques for the Pentwater tournament and called upon "Bad Dog" Skipper Tom Gorguze to explain how he and his crew took 1st Place. Tom shared his techniques with a little humor. Congratulations to Tom & crew. The Co-Tournament director then followed with details for the upcoming (at the time) Ludington tournaments. Bob Jones then took numerous fishing reports from the floor as once again there was plenty of good fishing to be had around the State including Port Austin, Drummond Island, Lake St. Clair as well as many others.

See Ladies Day on Pg. 2

See July Meeting on Pg. 2

June Meeting from Pg. 1

The raffles then followed featuring a large wheeled cooler and some great tackle packs which included some 2010 DAS T-Shirts. In the 75/25 drawings, 1st place and \$85 was won by Director Jason Adam and Ron Pal won the 2nd place prize of \$41. Congratulations to them both! Relatively new member Don Mikros was present to claim the \$100 cash prize in the Every Member drawing. It definitely pays to come the meetings and get a chance at the \$100 bucks! The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Ladies Day from Pg. 1

in the area and caught 2 more before the 9 am fish-call. At 9 am the standings were:

Vicki's Seacret	6
Bad Dog	4
Sea Hag	2
Thor's Hammer	2
Almost Paradise	1
Sloppy Joe	0

Vicki's Seacret stayed in the area near the bathhouse and we managed to catch 2 more fish by 10:30, but that was our last fish for the day. It was definitely a slow fishing day

for our fleet of skilled captains. At the 12:00 fish-call the reported catch was:

Vicki's Seacret	8
Bad Dog	4
Sea Hag	4
Almost Paradise	4.5
Thor's Hammer	2
Sloppy Joe	0

At 1:00 all boats pulled lines and headed back to port for the 2:30 weigh-in at Copeyan Park. We all enjoyed a nice lunch that was organized by port captain Jody Robinson (thanks Jody!). All the ladies were rewarded for their participation with a nice "DAS Ladies Day" T-shirt.

The results announced at the weigh-in were as follows:

	Total Pts.
Vicki's Seacret	129.85
Sea Hag	79.20
Bad Dog	73.85
Almost Paradise	67.00
Thor's Hammer	28.75
Sloppy Joe	0

However, the next day I had to disqualify myself (Vicki's Seacret) from the tournament. Here is the story: On Sunday morning my nephew and I went back out to fish the same area near the bathhouse. We

See Ladies Day on Pg. 4

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Membership News

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Manistee I & II Tournaments

This year our last two club tournaments are in Manistee. The fishing this time of the year could be good or great! Check with the local bait shops, charters, or Tom Gorguze for update information. Manistee has no nets this year to hamper with your trolling (what is Vickies Secret going to do?). Fishing should be good on the shelf or right out in front of the piers. Spoons, cut bait, flasher-fly, or J plugs will work. As always, DAS captains that fish this port have lots of options on where to fish. Here's a quick run-down on fishing in Manistee.

There is plenty of good bottom structure in this area but the most popular area to target is the shelf. The shelf is a natural drop that runs from Pentwater to Frankfort. Straight out from the Manistee piers it's just a couple miles off shore to a drop that starts in 70 feet of water and continues to about 150 feet. Most boats will head straight out or south from the piers because the shelf in this area runs parallel to the shore line. You'll recognize this area by the long line of boats trolling north and south.

Out past the shelf there is a second dramatic drop between 280 and 500 feet. When surface temps and the thermal cline are both high, fish can be found out deep looking for a cool place to spend the day. Just because the water is deep doesn't mean the fish are. You can usually find a mix of Steelhead, Kings, and Trout in the upper water column far from shore.

Big Sable Point to the south usually holds fish and is popular with fisherman out of Ludington as well as those that make the 15 mile run from Manistee. The lighthouse at the point is frequently referred to as the 'stick' by local fishermen. Depending on wind direction and water temps, fish may be found either north or south of the stick.

North of the pier heads the drop starts a little further out. If you head northwest from the pier there are two areas where the bottom holds about 50'. After you clear the second flat you'll find the shelf. This area is referred to by the water tower on shore that resembles an 'onion'. Since most Manistee boats can only turn left heading out of the piers, this area doesn't get much pressure, but stay alert for occasional boats trolling east and west.

Onkama is only 11 miles north of Manistee. Between the two ports are a pair of large mounds on shore that sit either side of a low sand dune and resemble a 'saddle'. Just north of the Onkama pier in 60' of water is a depression that reaches 120' deep. After an east wind water temps on the Michigan coast rise and this hole which is known as the 'barrel' provides a cool place for big kings to hide.

If near shore temps are low you might want to try your luck out front of the piers. When the big lake is cold, batfish seek relief in the warm water run-off from Manistee Lake. The Big and Little Manistee rivers meet in Manistee Lake before

emptying into Lake Michigan. Staging fish ready to spawn pass through this area and fishing can be fast paced when spawning fish are on the move.

The overall catch numbers are down from recent years but the size is way up. This summer a number of Kings in the 25 to 30 pound class are being caught. In addition to the healthy fishery there have been a number of improvements around town that will make your visit more enjoyable. New bathrooms at the city marina opened this summer and the Harbor Masters offices also boast an improved lounge and laundry. The new building also includes a second floor common area that offers excellent views of the harbor. The city also improved the free city ramp on Manistee Lake and installed a handicapped accessible fishing pier. The fishing pier gets 'land locked' fisherman a little closer to the action as Kings and Steelhead stage in preparation for their run up the Big Manistee River.

The Manistee I tournament is Saturday, August 27. Port Captain is Bob Paradise (586-457-4073). Manistee II is Saturday, September 10. Port Captain is Tom Gorguze (248-544-0958).

For both tournaments; the Skippers meeting is at 5:00am at the Lions Pavilion at the west end of the County launch. You may set lines for the tournament start at 6:00am. There will be fish calls on Channel 72 at 9:00am and 12:00am. Lines must be pulled at 2:00pm. You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30pm, again, at the Lions Pavilion. As usual, lunch will be served at the weigh-ins for both tournaments.

The Manistee I tournament is the last of three "333" contests. For \$20 entry fee for this tournament, you can pick out your 3 heaviest fish to enter. The fish must be chosen before being weighed on the Club scale. The 3 heaviest fish will win half of the pot collected for the Manistee event. If you paid to enter the previous (2) "333" contests at Grand Haven and Ludington II, you are also eligible to enter the Overall "333" where the (3) heaviest fish designated by you have a chance to win the remaining total pot from all (3) events. If you have not designated any fish from those previous (2) tournaments, then you will have to do so at this tournament. If you did not enter either of the previous "333" contests or only entered one of them, you can pay the difference at this event and still be eligible for the Overall "333". A total of \$60 paid will get you entered in the Overall. Any questions about the "333" contest call Tournament Co-Chairmen Bob Ksionzek at (586)-531-9198.

Let's have a good turnout for the last (2) boat trolling events of the season. Hope to see everyone there!

Good Fishin'

Bob Paradise & Tom Gorguze

Ladies Day from Pg. 2

started catching fish right away while trying to get our lines in the water. In the first 15 minutes we caught 2 nice kings, but then the bite was off. After a long dry spell we started comparing our Sunday 6-rod spread to the set-ups we had used during the tournament on Saturday: 4 riggers, 2 dipsy's, 2 full cores, 1 half core, and 1 three-color core. Wait a minute.....ooops! That's when we realized that in the excitement of catching fish and trying to get our lines set that we had forgotten about the 9 rod limit and fished the tournament with a 10-rod spread. I notified the "authorities" of the mistake and disqualified myself. Oh well.....It was a great day of fishing and we had a lot of fun!

Congratulations to Captain Blaise Pewinski (Sea Hag) for the first place finish. The Big Fish prize was won by Captain Tom Gorguze (Bad Dog) with a nice King weighing 17.10 lbs.

Bob Feisel

Ludington II August 13, 2011

With thunderstorms threatening in the morning, the radar was checked and it was decided that the club was in no danger of lightning or vicious winds so we decided to fish according to plans.

Fishing in Ludington has been slow; some locals say that the water is 3 weeks behind, due to the cold spring. Some say that the numbers have been fewer due to the cutback in the plants four years ago. The previous weekend we had okay fishing for Ladies Day and we were hoping that the fishing would pick up. Leaving the captains meeting with smiles and high hopes we set out for the big blue water. Some boats went to the point. Some went past the point and some went to the bathhouse. At the first 9:00 fish call the numbers were encouraging with the average catch of three Kings per boat. Bad Dog was enjoying lighter traffic and huge fish at the Bath House while others at the point and north were combat fishing.

At the 12:00 fish call the number of numbers did not change much except for Sea Hag who found a nice pocket of Coho

and Kings at the 36 line in 300 plus feet of water. Sea Hags speed of troll was a whopping 2.7 to 2.9 Knots. Working the same line was club member Dave Even and Thor's Hammer. All boats pulled lines at 2:00 and reported in safely reaching the Ludington pier heads by 2:45.

The plan was to meet at Peter Copian Park for the weigh-in at 3:30. When we arrived at the park, we found all the picnic tables and gazebos being used by residents and another Steelheaders club. Being adaptable to the changing conditions, we promptly changed the weigh-in to The Ludington Municipal Marina. The talk was how the bite turned on after noon and the final numbers looked encouraging. Most noticeable was the catch by Night Moves. Unlike the other boats, "Night Moves" skipper, Carl Ventimiglia never left the Point. He stayed on task by looping the same stretch of



Big Fish - 26.35 King caught on "Bobby's Toy" sive box weighing 128.20 lbs. The big fish went to Bobby's Toy, a very nice King weighing 26.35 lbs.

water repeatedly gaining depth on each pass his total catch weighing 119.45 lbs. "Night Moves" finished second to Bad Dog who rallied in the last two hours ending up with a mas-

We sat down under the gazebo for fun and fellowship while the weigh in was being expertly conducted with Mark Paradise weighing the fish. The lunch menu consisted of. 7 different types of Pizza, Hot Garlic Cheese bread, BBQ wings, hot wings, antipasto salad, garden salad, carrot cake, banana cake, brownies and ice-cold beverages. We made some new friends that were having a family get together and ended up swapping some of the leftover salad for fresh deep fried perch and bluegill that were caught that morning in Hamlin Lake. All in all the outing was a huge success. Good weather, good fishing, good food, great fun and a long nap in the shade. Who could ask for anything more?

Alan Wiechert
"Thor's Hammer"

Ladies Day Standings										8/6/2011							
Place	Boat Name	Skipper	# of Fish Weighed	Catch by Species & Weight								Best 8 Total Wgt.	Best 8 Total Pts.	Deduction Code	Points Deducted	Total Points	Place
1	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	5	K 16.05	K 15.40	K 8.45	C 7.85	C 6.45	-----	-----	-----	54.20	79.20	NONE	0.00	79.20	1
2	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	4	K 17.10	K 14.95	K 14.20	S 7.60	-----	-----	-----	53.85	73.85	NONE	0.00	73.85	2	
3	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	4	K 15.85	K 15.60	K 12.40	K 3.15	-----	-----	-----	47.00	67.00	NONE	0.00	67.00	3	
4	Thor's Hammer	Al Wiechert	2	K 13.15	L 5.60	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	18.75	28.75	NONE	0.00	28.75	4	
5	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	0	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.00	0.00	NONE	0.00	1.00	5	
6	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	8	K 16.25	K 15.00	K 13.85	K 11.25	K 10.90	K 8.95	K 8.95	K 4.70	89.85	129.85	DQ	0.00	0.00	6

	Boat Name	Species	Wgt.	Number Caught
BIG FISH	Bad Dog	King	17.10	1
	Bad Dog	King	17.10	18
	Vicki's Seacret	Coho	8.95	3
	Thor's Hammer	Lake Trout	5.60	1
	Bad Dog	Steelhead	7.60	1
		Brown	0.00	0
		Atlantic	0.00	0
	Pink	0.00	0	
				23

6	Total Boats
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Deduction Code LEGEND
LTSM = Late To Skipper's Mtg.
LWI = Late To Weigh-In
1NFC = No Answer 1 Fish Call
2NFC = No Answer 2 Fish Calls
UCC = Unauthorized Crew Chg.
DQ = Disqualified

Ladies Day 2011 Photos



1st Place - "Sea Hag"



2nd Place - "Bad Dog"



3rd Place—"Almost Paradise"



4th Place—"Thor's Hammer"



17.1lb. King - Big Fish - "Bad Dog"



"Vicki's Seacret"

Ludington II Standings														8/13/2011				
Place	Boat Name	Skipper	# of Fish Weighed	Catch by Species & Weight									Best 8 Total Wgt.	Best 8 Total Pts.	Deduction Code	Points Deducted	Total Points	Place
1	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	8	K 22.70	K 19.15	K 18.70	K 18.35	K 17.00	K 14.25	K 10.85	K 7.20	128.20	168.20	NONE	0.00	168.20	1	
2	Nite Moves	Carl Ventimiglia	8	K 19.10	K 18.90	K 16.70	K 16.50	K 15.25	K 15.00	K 9.40	K 8.60	119.45	159.45	NONE	0.00	159.45	2	
3	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	8	K 15.05	K 15.05	K 14.75	K 12.50	C 9.00	K 8.35	K 7.45	C 7.25	89.40	129.40	NONE	0.00	129.40	3	
4	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	8	K 17.55	K 15.55	K 15.15	K 9.80	K 7.40	L 7.30	C 6.95	L 5.05	84.75	124.75	NONE	0.00	124.75	4	
5	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	8	K 15.90	K 10.10	C 9.60	C 8.60	L 8.40	C 7.90	C 7.65	C 7.65	75.80	115.80	NONE	0.00	115.80	5	
6	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	5	K 26.35	K 13.80	S 5.90	L 4.25	C 3.80	-----	-----	-----	54.10	79.10	NONE	0.00	79.10	6	
7	Thor's Hammer	Al Wiechert	5	K 12.85	K 12.15	K 8.85	K 6.35	L 4.30	-----	-----	-----	44.50	69.50	NONE	0.00	69.50	7	
8	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	2	K 19.35	K 17.10	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	36.45	46.45	NONE	0.00	46.45	8	

	Boat Name	Species	Wgt.	Number Caught
L A R G E S T	Bobby's Toy	King	26.35	38
	Bobby's Toy	King	26.35	12
	Sea Hag	Coho	9.60	5
	Sea Hag	Lake Trout	8.40	1
	Bobby's Toy	Steelhead	5.90	0
		Brown	0.00	0
		Atlantic	0.00	0
	Pink	0.00	0	
				56

8 Total Boats

Deduction Code LEGEND
 LTSM = Late To Skipper's Mtg.
 LTWI = Late To Weigh-In
 1NFC = No Answer 1 Fish Call
 2NFC = No Answer 2 Fish Calls
 UCC = Unauthorized Crew Chg.
 DQ = Disqualified

333 Entries				Entry Data								
Boat Name	Skipper	Entered	3 Fish Wgt.	Species	Wgt.	OA	Species	Wgt.	OA	Species	Wgt.	OA
Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	Y	44.85	K	15.05	-	K	15.05	-	K	14.75	-
Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	N	0.00		-	-		-	-		-	-
Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	Y	46.05	K	26.35	A	K	13.80	-	S	5.90	-
Nite Moves	Carl Ventimiglia	N	0.00		-	-		-	-		-	-
Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	Y	35.60	K	15.90	-	K	10.10	-	C	9.60	-
Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	Y	48.25	K	17.55	A	K	15.55	-	K	15.15	-
Thor's Hammer	Al Wiechert	N	0.00		-	-		-	-		-	-
Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	Y	36.45	K	19.35	A	K	17.10	A	-	-	-

333 Results				
Place	Boat Name	Skipper	3 Fish Wgt.	Prize
1st	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	48.25	\$50

50%

Note: In the above "333" Entry Data, the "A" following the fish weight designates that fish is entered in the Overall "333" contest.

Ludington II Photos



1st Place - "Bad Dog"



2nd Place - "Night Moves"

More Ludington II Photos



3rd Place - "Almost Paradise"



4th Place - "Sloppy Joe"



5th Place—"Sea Hag"



6th Place—"Bobby's Toy"



7th Place—"Thor's Hammer"



8th Place—"Vicki's Secret"

Upcoming 2011 DAS Key Dates

August 27, 2011 6:00am - 2:00pm	Boat Trolling Tournament Manistee I (P.C. Bob Paradise)
August 30, 2011 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
September 10, 2011 6:00am - 2:00pm	Boat Trolling Tournament Manistee II (P.C. Tom Gorguze)
September 13, 2011 7:00pm	BOD Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
September 27, 2011 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center

**ROBERT M. JONES
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Membership expires: 412

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