



Fishin' Tales

April 2009
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Issue 4

Protecting & Promoting the Great Lakes Sport Fishery

April 2009 Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on **Tuesday April 28, 2009 at 7:30 pm at our new meeting location upstairs inside Bass Pro Shop at the Great Lakes Crossing Mall, I-75 & Baldwin Rd.** Our meetings are always open to the public.

The featured guest speaker will be well known Charter Captain & Author Dan Keating. Dan is known as the "Salmon Professor", having authored 2 books, produced 2 DVD's as well as speaking around the country. He is a contributing writer to Great Lakes Angler magazine and has averaged 17.1 fish per trip throughout his charter career.

To insure that you get a seat, we are advising our members to get there early. There will only be chairs set up, no tables and the room capacity is for 140 persons. Fire regulations will allow no more than that. Please have your membership card or a recent newsletter for proof of membership if needed.

Of course, there will also be the usual tackle raffles, 75/25 raffle and Every Member drawing. Up to date club information can also be found on the DAS web site at: www.detroitsteelheaders.org



Membership News

New Memberships

Jack Herron
Anthony Lewis

Renewed Memberships

Gaspare Aragona	John Gesing
Henry Baczynski	Bob Ksionzek
Bob Brumer	Michael Lolli
Robert Ewart	David Mayfield
Bob Feisel	Allan Van Brocklin
Jim Fitch	Timothy Waidelich

Memberships Expiring This Month

Jeffrey Bustos	Tim & Jodi Robinson
Joel Garinger	Walter Romaniuk
Jay Hoch	Gary Rowoldt
Robert M. Jones	Gary D. Ruprich
James P Legenzoff	Fred Tebbets
Tom Moores	Al Weichert
Gilbert L. Piesczak	

Note: As a reminder, for every new member you refer to the Club, your membership will be extended 6 months.

Did You Miss The March Meeting?

Club President Mark Williams opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. Mark reminded everyone that, with Bass Pro now on their spring and summer hours, we had until 10:00pm before we had to be out of the meeting room. He also let everyone know to make it a point to be early for the April meeting to insure getting a seat as we expect a good turnout to hear Dan Keating speak.

Mark then turned the floor over to Bob Mitchell
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March Meeting from Page 1

for his slide presentation on "Going Deep". Bob has definitely done his research on this type of fishing, sharing with those in attendance the necessary techniques as well as outlining the special equipment used. The results he showed through himself and various others who have done this type of fishing prove that this can be a successful tool when the early morning fishing shuts down. I think we'll see a few skippers resort to this for the upcoming season when they need that extra couple of fish to round out their catch. Thanks to Bob for a job well done on a very interesting and informative presentation!

Bob then gave the mike back to President Mark Williams for Mark's slide presentation on "The Stealth Approach: Using Divers and Leadcore". Mark covered every aspect of properly using divers and then leadcore as the "stealth" tools for a more successful catch. Mark held the audiences attention throughout and fielded plenty of interested skippers' questions. Thanks Mark for an excellent presentation.

After the break, Mark turned the floor over to Boat Trolling Co-Chairman Bob Ksionzek, who outlined the upcoming Lexington tournament on Saturday, April 25. Bob presented handouts with tournament information and encouraged everyone participating to consider purchasing a "Salmon Stakes" ticket, which is being held on the same day. If you have a big fish or "Super Skipper" catch, the ticket would enable you to claim a possible \$500 prize. To clear up some confusion, every person on the boat must be entered. Call Bob at 586-531-9198 for tickets.

The raffles featured a rod & reel combo as well as miscellaneous tackle packs. The 75/25 raffle 1st prize of \$90 cash was won by Jim Legenzoff and the 2nd Prize of \$45 cash went to Fred Tebbets. Unfortunately, long-time member Dave Even, whose name was drawn, was not present, and couldn't claim his \$100 prize in the Every Member drawing.

Wild Game Dinner Update

Thanks to all who attended the 2009 Sportsman's Dinner.

This year's dinner saw another great menu that included sweet and sour pheasant, buffalo chuck roast, venison stroganoff, water buffalo meatloaf and boar sausage. This wonderful feast was served in front of a fantastic game display. Of course we had plenty of raffle prizes that were taken home by attendees. Prizes included 16 guns from Bass Pro Shops and several hundred other prizes; most donated by friends of the Detroit Steelheaders. The lucky man of the night was the son of member Bob Jones. Jason Jones won a 46" LCD High definition big screen TV. If you didn't make this year's dinner, be sure to put

See *WGD* on Page 5

2009 DAS Board of Directors	
MARK WILLIAMS - President <small>Speakers & Education, Donations, Publicity</small>	810-395-8789
BOB MITCHELL – Vice President <small>Coalition, Donations, Publicity, Wild Game Dinner</small>	248-828-8034
JOE VON GRABE - Secretary <small>Wild Game Dinner Tickets</small>	586-293-7688
STEVE HAMILTON - Treasurer <small>Coalition, Donations</small>	313-881-3871
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NIC AMICONE <small>Hats, Shirts & Jackets, Scholarship</small>	586-752-7603
DAN CHISHOLM <small>Raffles Assistant</small>	586-949-4215
BOB FEISEL <small>Boat Trolling, Raffles, Photography</small>	248-357-1089
PAUL GJELDUM <small>Shows, Membership, Meeting Refreshments & Raffles</small>	810-798-2313
TOM GORGUZE <small>Meeting Refreshments, Raffles, Shows, Wild Game Dinner</small>	248-544-0958
BOB JONES <small>Raffles, Wild Game Dinner</small>	248-486-5049
BOB KSIONZEK <small>Newsletter Editor, Boat Trolling, Photography, Website</small>	586-752-5545
TOM MOORES <small>Membership, Scholarship, Wild Game Dinner</small>	248-634-5789
CHRIS NYTKO <small>Cooler of Cheer, Photography, Website</small>	586-786-0288
DWAYNE WELDER <small>Meeting PA, Raffles, Special People, Trophies</small>	586-757-1194
JERRY ZABEL <small>River, Pier & Surf, Special People</small>	248-350-8024

2009 DAS Key Dates

Apr. 25	Boat Trolling Tournament Lexington
Apr. 28	Membership Meeting Guest Speaker - Dan Keating Bass Pro Shop
May 2	Boat Trolling Tournament St. Joseph
May 16-17	Boat Trolling Tournament Grand Haven (Two-Day)
May 26	Membership Meeting Bass Pro Shop

2009 Boat Trolling Schedule

- 04/25/09 - Lexington
(Dan Chisholm, Port Captain)
- 05/2/09 – St. Joseph
(Tom Gorguze, Port Captain)
- 05/16/09 - Grand Haven (2-day)
05/17/09 (Bob Feisel, Port Captain)
- 06/06/09 - Port Austin
(Blaise Pewinski, Port Captain)
- 06/13/09 - Special People
(Jerry Zabel, 248-350-8024)
- 07/11/09 - Pentwater, Team Doubles (333)
(Bob Jones, Port Captain)
- 08/01/09 - Ludington Ladies Day
(Mark Williams, Port Captain)
- 08/08/09 - Ludington II (2-Day) (333)
08/09/09 (Jody Robinson, Port Captain)
- 08/22/09 - Manistee II (333)
(Bob Paradise, Port Captain)
- 09/12/09 – Grand Haven II
(Dave Linder, Port Captain)

Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? The month and year your membership expires is below your name. If it's marked yellow, your membership may be close to expiring. Don't be disqualified from a tournament because you forgot to re-up. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150. See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to:
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1255

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Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1255

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

BOB HUBER
9999069
10410 NORMAN RD
GREENWOOD, MI 48006

Place
Stamp
Here



**First Stop on the Tournament Trail
Lexington
April 25, 2009
Lexington Harbor
Captains meeting at 5:30 AM
Drop lines at 6:30 AM Pull lines at 2:30 PM
Fish Calls 9:00 AM & 12:00 PM
Be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 PM**

Lexington Harbormaster Carl Wormlinger returned to work on March 9. Our tournament is on their schedule and everything is a go. Keep in mind since the harbor will not officially open until May 1, all utilities and personal conveniences are weather dependent. We probably will not have operating restrooms or fish cleaning station. Gas, water, and electricity may or may not be available depending upon how early the weather breaks and allows the State to get the harbor fully functioning. They did commit to having at least one dock in the water at the launch and a Ranger available for the day. Ample parking is available right at the launch.

It is not necessary to reserve the boat slips, since it is so early in the season. It is probably advisable to make the reservations, because of the Lexington tournament on May 2 and the bigger Salmon Stakes tournament (http://www.bluewatersportfishing.net/Salmon_Stakes/ss.html) on April 25. The Ranger on site will require annual or daily stickers for parking and launch site.

Our weigh in at City Park adjacent to the DNR site is a go. I need to take a second look at the park to see if tables will be available. The Village may put them away for the winter or leave them out, don't know which. Mary and I will be staying in the Lakeport State Park so I can set up some temporary tables if I must.

The local bait shop Archers and Anglers is open and well stocked. The shop is located on M-25, 3 1/2 miles south of the traffic light in

Lexington (7419 Lakeshore Rd, Lexington). Owner Bryan Touchette puts a weekly fishing report on the shop phone number (810)359-8550 each week during the season. Archers and Angler runs the Lexington Trout and Salmon tournament each year and this year is scheduled for May 2, the weekend following our tournament.

I met with Nancy at the Lexington Chamber of Commerce and asked her to review the meal and lodging information we have listed in our DAS web site. She believes the information is accurate and gave me the following two web sites for people to use for local area information:
<https://www.cros-lex-chamber.com/>
www.lexingtonmichigan.org

If you plan to bring your camper, there is not much available. As I mentioned before Mary and I will be in Lakeport State Park because it is the closest campground I could find and it is 11 miles south of Lexington. The State Parks open April 3 and you can register online for a campsite or boat slip reservation (<http://www.midnrrreservations.com>) or call (800)447-2757.

The fishing here, at this time of year, is usually in 15' to 25' of water. Long leads off downriggers and planer boards using body baits such as Rapalas and Bombers fished near creek mouths can be very productive. There are numerous creeks that dump into the lake from Lexington south to Lakeport State Park as well as north to Port Sanilac. Coho and Steelhead with a few Brown Trout and Chinook make up most of the catch. Even though they don't count in our tournament, the walleye fishing can also be quite good if the water warms enough. Not a bad bonus fish!

Be advised, there is a sandbar that juts out to the south of the break wall as you exit the harbor (See picture above left). It's quite visible but be sure and go far enough to the south to clear it before turning out to the east or north.

If you decide to end fishing our tournament early because of a potential Big Fish or Super Skipper Catch for the Salmon Stakes, there will be someone on shore to weigh your catch for entry in our tournament. Check with me or Bob Ksionzek for info the day of the tourney.

That's all the details I can share with you right now. Get your boats ready, strip your lines, sharpen your hooks and get ready for the first tournament of the year in Lexington. Use the DAS web site to find crews or captains and get ready to break the winter grip.

**See you in Lexington on April 25,
Dan Chisholm, Port Captain**

St. Joseph Tournament Sat., May 2, 2009

The sister cities of Benton Harbor and Saint Joseph are a favorite port for many early season anglers. This is a peak period as fish are attracted to the relatively warm waters of southern Lake Michigan prior to their migration north. This year, St. Joe is the second stop on our trolling schedule. Creels are typically highlighted by an abundance of Coho and Chinook but all species of salmonids can be caught this time of year.

Most of the fishing at this port occurs within ten miles of the St. Joseph River pier heads. Popular landmarks to the north include the Ad Building near town and the old Amusement Park about a mile past the pier heads. A bluff starts a mile past the park and peaks at Thunder Mountain another five miles up the shore. If you head south, you'll see the Pump House less than a mile from the harbor and the Junk Cars about three miles down. The Chalets are at seven miles and the Cook Power Plant is nine miles south of the pier. The bottom drops gradually here and you can find 100' of water just a few miles out.

If you have never fished one of our club tournaments, don't be intimidated. They are a great way to experience new ports, improve your fishing skills and get to know the members of the club. The Captains are eager to help others with tips and techniques. Club boats monitor VHF channel 72. All boat captains present at the weigh-in are eligible for the random gas card drawings held at every port. When 14 or more boats are entered, a second card will be drawn. If you don't own a boat and would like to experience tournament fishing, check out our Crews Board page on the message board or contact one of our trolling directors. The Co-Trolling Directors this year are, Bob Feisel and Bob Ksionzek. Last year we had nine boats fish St. Joe. Hopefully with gas prices closer to \$2 a gallon, more will make the trip this year.

The Captains Meeting is scheduled for 5:30 AM at the West Basin Marina. Boats can head out when the meeting concludes and set lines at 6:30 AM. There will be fish calls at 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. We'll pull lines at 2:30 PM. There usually are plenty of slips available at the West Basin in early May. Reservations can be made through the state DNR website, or contact the Harbor Master at (616) 983-6114. The West Basin has told us it is cheaper to make reservations directly to the Harbor Master.

If you've never been to St. Joe, check our website for a copy of the Port Handout. There are two public ramps at this port and the DNR ramp can handle most size boats. The river is well marked but there are obstacles, so stay in the marked areas. See you at the West Basin.

Tom Gorguze, Port Captain
248-343-8397



Grand Haven 2 Day Tournament Sat., May 16 – Sun., 17, 2009

The DAS trolling captains and crews will travel to Grand Haven on May 16-17 for our third trolling tournament of the 2009 season. This will be a "two-day" tournament. The pre-tournament meeting will be at the Municipal Marina at 5:00 AM on Saturday morning. We will start fishing at 6:00 AM and pull lines at 2:00 PM. There will be fish calls at 9:00 am and 12:00 PM. The weigh-in (and FOOD!) will be at the Municipal Marina at 3:00 PM. On Sunday we will fish from 6:00 AM until noon and the weigh-in will be at 1:00 PM. There will be a fish call at 9:00 AM. The combined scores for the two days of fishing will determine the winners.

Boat slip reservations at the Grand Haven Municipal Marina can be made through the Michigan DNR system: phone 1-800-44-PARKS, or visit the DNR website at www.midnrreservations.com. The marina office can be contacted by calling 616-847-3478 or 616-842-2550.

The Harbor Island launch ramps are west of US-31 on the south side of the Grand River. There is a fee for using the ramps. When launching, pay attention to the marker buoys in the river so that you will avoid the shallow areas that are on both sides of the ramps.

Fishing tackle / supplies can be purchased at Lakeview Marine & Tackle (616-842-2770) in Grand Haven, or at Fish On Bait & Tackle (616-935-6985) in Nunica.

A mixed catch of Coho and King salmon, along with some steelhead and lake trout, is typical at Grand Haven. Spring fishing success can often be found in the muddy plume of warm water coming from the Grand River. Lures pulled behind in-line planers and shallow dipsies should do well. Be prepared to move out to deeper, clear waters if you do not find fish close to shore.

Port Captain: Bob Feisel
248-357-1089

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a note on your calendar for 2010...and start rubbing your rabbit's foot.

Of course, to pull off an event like this you need the help of an army of volunteers. There are too many to list. Some sold tickets, some scoured for donations, some helped set up or did one of the many jobs that went on in the background. A million thanks to all. Finally, there is the financial aspect of the dinner. This was our most successful dinner and that success will allow us to maintain support for many charitable organizations and events. Again, thanks to all who helped out and to all who attended.

Bob Mitchell, DAS VP.



Photos from this year's Wild Game Dinner
(Courtesy of Chris Nytko and Ed Wilczek)

River Fishing News

Big Manistee River, Sat. March 28

There was a fish-off between members of the Metro-West Steelheaders and the Detroit Area Steelheaders on Saturday, March 28 on the Big Manistee River. 28 fisherman showed up – 20 from Metro-West and 8 from the DAS. This will become an annual event and I had a plaque made up just for the event.

There was one fish caught by the Metro-West group and two by the DAS, both by Bob Paradise, one a 7+ pounder and the other an 8+ pounder. Congratulations Bob! The plaque and bragging rights this year go to the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

In addition there was a pot-luck dinner served after the weigh-in and was enjoyed by all. Besides Mr. Paradise, other DAS members in attendance were "R. J." Janis, Gaspare Aragona, Tom Theida, Tom Gorguze, Ed Horen, Jerry Zabel and guest Dan Whitmill

Clinton River, Sat. April 11

Sat. morning saw a pretty day up at the Clinton River near Yates Cider Mill. Several members showed up to try and get a Steelhead to take one of our several offerings, but there were no hits this day. Attending were Bob Paradise, Gaspare Aragona, Tom Theida, Jerry & Larry Zabel (my son). Also on hand was a fellow by the name of Max. We did not fish beyond 11 A.M., as the fishing was not productive, except at the Dam where the guys were catching Suckers.

Jerry Zabel
River, Surf and Pier Fishing Director

Major DNR Fishing Regulation Changes for 2009 Statewide - Three Rods

Anglers may now use up to three rods or tip-ups while angling regardless of species. This allows use of three separate lines and up to six total hooks. For more information, see 2009 DNR Fishing Guide.

Statewide - Chinook and Coho Salmon Possession Limit

A new possession limit now allows anglers to keep up to 5 salmon (Coho and Chinook) in the daily possession limit. For more information, see 2009 DNR Fishing Guide.

For other DNR Fishing Regulation Changes, See 2009 DNR Fishing Guide.