

2007 Key Dates

Mar. 27 – Member Meeting
(SWAP NIGHT)

April 24 – Member Meeting
Capt. Mike Gnatkowski

May 29 – Member Meeting
Boat Rigging Show

June 26– Member Meeting

July 31– Member Meeting

DAS Web Site

The DAS website is up and running.

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Be sure to sign up for the message board so you can

get and participate in sharing information.

You need to do this as here is where you will get important last minute, up to date information regarding the club.

Stay in touch with friends. Get insider information on where the fish are biting (or not). Ask for an opinion on a new tackle or electronics item before you spend the bucks. This is the place where it happens. Sign up today.

Home: (586) 786-0288 Pager:
(586) 609-6208



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 the club post office box (1255 in Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255).

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255



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MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Inside this Issue

- 1** March Meeting
Free Line
Future Meetings
- 2** Feb Meeting Notes
Scholarship
Gas Cards
- 3** Wild Game Wrapup
LED Lights
Boat Trolling Cal.
- 4** Key Dates
Web site

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, Mi.
48311-1255

Fishin' Tales



March Meeting - SWAP MEET

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday March 27, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)- Warren, Michigan. Our meetings are always open to the public.

Our speaker for March is Capt. Ron Graves of Butcher Bouy Charters; a Lake Erie, Erieau Charter Captain.

We will also have Chip Greene from Ridgeback Rattler downrigger weights.

The March regular member meeting will feature the **Annual Swap Meet** for members. If you have rods, reels, lures, or other tackle you don't need, turn it into cash at the meeting. If you need something, check out the tables. Show up early (doors open at 7:00 p.m.) for the best selection or to set up.

Up to date club information can be also found on the DAS web site at www.detroitsteelheaders.org.

FREE LINE at MARCH MEETING

The most important piece of fishing equipment you have is your line. If it fails nothing else matters. We often tout the need to put fresh line on your reels to start the season. So here's a terrific opportunity. The Detroit Steelheaders will spool up to 4 reels for free.

Just bring your reels to the March member meeting. Please strip reels of old line prior to the meeting to make everything go faster.

We are limiting it to four reels to be sure everyone gets some line. If there is line left over after everyone has filled four, we will fill additional reels.

Future Meetings

April 24th:
- Capt. Mike Gnatkowski - Gnat's Charters Lake Michigan Charter boat captain, and Michigan outdoor writer.
(www.gnatscharters.com/)
- Salvation Army Reel and Rod repair and spooling. We will be meeting at 6:30 if you want to help fix up rod/reel combos for the Echo Grove Salvation Army Camp).

May 29th:
- Boat Rigging Show in Parking Lot
- Berts Custom Tackle to speak on Boat Rigging.

www.teclausa.com/bert)
In addition, all meetings will have upcoming tournament information and recent tournament results, fishing reports, raffles, and short technical presentations where time allows. Hope to see you there.....Jason



February Meeting

The featured speaker of the February meeting was Captain Steve Dennis from Fishbone Charters. Captain Steve has fished out of Manistee the past 20 years and shared his knowledge of how weather affects fishing. One of his key points was to pay attention to the wind as an East wind can blow warm water off shore or a West wind blow warm water near shore resulting in significant changes in the thermalcline. Wallet cards outlining 2007 tournament dates were printed up by Ed Hill and given out to members at the meeting. Al Wiechert announced a new project done in conjunction with the Salvation Army. Kids who earn badges at the Salvation Army's summer camp will be put in a drawing to win a trip on a club boat. Al was asking for volunteers to take kids. Call Al at 248-435-4013 if you want to help out. Club president Jason Adam

announced that the DAS has donated \$1,000 to the Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby. Last year about 750 kids participated. This year's event will take place May 19 at Lake Francies in Palmer Park off Woodward. Robert Taylor won the 100 qt cooler in the bonus raffle and there was no winner in the All Member drawing so next month's prize is \$50.

\$500 CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP

On behalf of your Board of Directors it gives me great pleasure to announce the formation of the Detroit Area Steelheaders Conservation Scholarship. Nearly a year ago the Board started the process of putting together a small scholarship award for some lucky high school student choosing to go into the field of conservation. Be it Conservation Officer, Wildlife Biology, Oceanography or any other career benefiting our beloved waters or woods, we now have an avenue to help out a budding conservationist.

After several re-writes to get the particular language to the entire BOD's satisfaction we now have a document that allows a high school senior to apply for and earn a \$500 scholarship to the college of their choice. There are several requirements, but let me take a moment to outline the major factors. First and foremost the candidate must be furthering his or her education in the conservation field. Secondly the applicant must be sponsored or recommended by

a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Third the applicant must complete and submit an application by the specified date to be considered for the scholarship.

As a conservation organization, DAS could not think of a better way to insure that our outdoor heritage remains intact than giving to a deserving student that plans to make his or her life ambition a career in conservation services. Our club has made many donations to worthwhile causes over the years. In this Director's opinion, helping a young person start down the road to a lifetime of protecting and improving our Woods, Waters, Fields and Streams is as worthy a cause as any organization could ever hope to be a part of. Respectfully Submitted, Nicholas Amicone

GAS CARD Drawing

We will have a participation prize this year in our boat trolling tournaments. A gas card will be drawn randomly from skippers at the event. Two will be awarded if participation is over 14 boats.



Eighth ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S DINNER

This year's game dinner was a huge success. As usual, the food was fabulous. Elk, wild boar, buffalo, pheasant...and the game display was magnificent.

There were raffles galore. The 52 card gun raffles, \$1 general raffle, \$5 super raffle, 50/50 raffle and the popular Spoon raffle for a Mercury 9.9 h.p. 4-cycle outboard. Over 150 prizes were awarded including 15 guns, a portable generator, a Big Jon downrigger, Rod and reel combos, tackle bags, ladies prizes, etc.

The Silent Auction included a guitar signed by Michael Anthony the bass player for Van Halen, a ride in a new Cessna, a lake charter, a river charter, wildlife prints, Red Wing tickets and more.

(Note: credit cards used at the dinner will show as EI-Lin Charters on your statement)

A special thanks to all of the board members and to the general members who worked hard to make this a success. Also special thanks to all of the sponsors who donated items for the raffles. Without everyone's support we could

not have made this such a huge success. -Your Directors

LED LIGHTING

There's nothing worse than doing your pre-tow checklist, only to find a trailer light or turn signal burned out. Incandescent lights are inherently problematic and not particularly well suited to the marine environment. The answer is LED lighting. Light Emitting Diode (LED)'s are low current draw, waterproof, super bright lights that will outlast an incandescent bulb 10 to 1.

There are replacement lights utilizing LEDs for almost every bulb and fixture on your boat and trailer. There are kits available for trailers that include a wiring harness, brake lights and turn signals. Accessory lights such as marker lights can be added as well. I have added LED "courtesy lighting" under my gunnels and in my cabin, using red LED's, to use in the dark without impairing night-vision or draining the batteries down. LED's are compact and impervious to the elements, so they are perfect for harsh environments such as storage compartments and in the bilge. You can find replacement bulbs that will fit right in your existing navigational lighting and cabin fixtures.

Complete trailer kits start around \$50, with additional individual marker lights costing about \$6 each. Accessory lighting for the boat can range in cost and function. Most boating supply stores will carry LED lighting, but the selection will vary by store. Anyone with basic 12V DC electrical knowledge should have no problem completing most swaps or new installs. Remember to always use wire

2007 Boat Trolling Tournaments

2007 Tourney's and Port Captains as follows:

4/28 St. Joseph (Al Wiechert)

5/5 South Haven (Tim Robinson)

5/19, 5/20 Grand Haven 2-day (Bob Jones)

6/9 Port Austin Team Doubles (Dave Linder)

6/23 Special People Outing - Lake Erie (Doug Karakas)

7/14 Manistee (Tom Gorguze)

8/4 Ludington Ladies Day (Mark Williams)

8/11 Ludington II (Ron Pal)

8/25 Manistee II (Bob Paradise)

9/8 Frankfort (Bob Fiesel)

and connectors appropriate for the task, and fuse all circuits correctly for safety.