

### 2007 Key Dates

May 29 – Member Meeting  
Boat Rigging Show

**June 23 Special People  
Outing - Lake Erie  
(Doug Karakas)**

June 26– Member Meeting

July 31– Member Meeting

### **DAS Member Discounts**

As a member of the Detroit Steelheaders you are eligible for a number of

discounts.

Our **Boat US** club discount number is GA82750B

#### **Pro Fishing & Archery Center--**

Ph # 586-469-2070  
5% on reels, electronics, bows - 10% discount on everything else.

#### **Dunhams**

10% off except on firearms and supplies

#### **Sherwin Williams Paints**

20% off regular prices  
5% off sale prices  
Use # 9078-5147-1

Contact Tom Moores at the membership desk for a discount card.



### **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](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org)

### **Inside this Issue**

- 1** May Meeting  
Brown Trout Record
- 2** South Haven Tournament  
May 29 Meeting
- 3** St. Joe Tournament  
South Haven Tournament
- 4** St. Joe Tournament  
South Haven Tournament
- 5** Boat Trolling Tournament
- 6** Key Dates  
DAS Discounts

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

# Fishin' Tales



### **May Meeting**

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday May 29, 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.

The May meeting will feature Boat Rigging Show in Parking Lot. The featured speaker will be from Berts Custom Tackle to speak on Boat Rigging. [www.teclausa.com/bert](http://www.teclausa.com/bert)

In addition, the meeting 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

Up to date club information can be also found on the DAS web site at [www.detroitsteelheaders.org](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org).

### **New Mi. Record Brown Trout**



The big fish my nephew -- Casey Richey of Frankfort, Michigan -- caught yesterday has turned the fishing world on its ear. All it took was one fish.

An early peek at the fish yesterday told Todd Kalish, a DNR fisheries biologist from Traverse City, one thing: he better get a second and third opinion. The question was: was the fish a brown trout or an Atlantic salmon?

Kalish told us yesterday he was 80 percent positive, but he asked Casey for another day to get a second and third opinion. It's better to be safe than to make a major mistake.

Today, district DNR fisheries biologists Tom Rozich and Mark Tonello of the Cadillac office, drove to Traverse City to eyeball the fish. They wanted to be absolutely certain about the identity of his catch.

"One look at the fish told Mark and I all we needed to know," Rozich said. "But we went through the entire drill of further identity checks, and they backed

up what all three of us, Casey and his Uncle Dave knew."

It was a brown trout. Not just any brown trout but a new state record that literally shattered the earlier record by over two pounds. In the record books it will now stand as the third largest brown trout on record.

The fish also will set a new line-class record for brown trout being caught on 10-pound line in the records kept by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin.

The Hall keeps track of all freshwater species of fish, and besides listing the overall largest fish of that species, it keeps track of fish caught in various categories and with various line-class records.

Casey's 36-pound, 13-ounce brown trout trails only two catch-and-keep fish. The heaviest brown ever caught and registered weighed 40.4 pounds, and was caught by Howard Collins from the Little Red River in Arkansas in 1992.

Michael Manley caught a 38.9 pound brown from the Norfolk River, also in Arkansas, in 1988. Casey's huge Lake Michigan brown trout was caught on 10-pound line, and the previous record-holder in the 10-pound line category, weighed 35.1 pounds.

That fish was caught by Lloyd Arndt in 1996 from

Wisconsin's Keweenaw River.

Michigan's new state-record brown couldn't have been caught by a more deserving person. Nepotism aside, Casey's fish was the culmination of over 30 years of fishing the big lake. His father, my late twin brother, George Richey, and I, spent years teaching Casey how to fish for brown trout.

Now Casey, a single parent, takes his son Shane whenever they get a chance to fish. Shane, at nine years of age, is following in the footsteps of his father and uncle.

Shane is a tough little guy, and when I asked if he could hold up his father's fish, he said he could. Casey picked it up and laid it across Shane's outstretched arms, and then told him to curl up his arms and hold the fish against his chest. The idea of catching a state-record game fish appeals to most anglers. Frankly, it is a very difficult thing to do.

It requires being in the right spot at the right time with the right lure at the proper depth with a hungry fish looking for an easy meal. There is a great deal of water around that one fish, and the odds of catching a new record are enormous. Luck plays an important role in catching a state-record fish.

So, folks, just for fun and giggles, indulge me a bit. Let's try something that will take only 10 seconds of your time.

Study the fish above. The angler is Casey Richey of Frankfort, owner of Richey's Custom Flies. He is my late

twin brother George's son and my nephew. He is a hardcore troller.

There are times when nepotism runs strongly in me. It's an easy story to write when some kinfolk does something outstanding.

That outstanding thing in this case is the fish he holds. It looks exactly as it did when caught. It also is a new state record for its species. The burning question is: what species of game fish is it?

This fish was caught today at 6:10 a.m. at Frankfort while trolling Lake Michigan. Casey, a dedicated brown trout troller has caught 27 brown trout since ice-out this spring, and the average fish weighed six to seven pounds.

He was fishing for browns today, and both lines were set and he began trolling. His son Shane was sleeping in the bow, and Casey trolled around the Frankfort-Elberta harbor. He was trolling No. 9 Rapalas 100 yards off the in-line planer boards.

In and out, around in a circle, quick speed-ups and slow downs. all designed to give the lures a bit more action.

The fish hit 10 minutes after they got started, and Casey often fishes alone or with Shane, and he is used to fighting fish while reeling in other lines and bringing in the planer board lines.

"The fish hit and promptly took out 100 yards of line," he said. "That was good for me because I was the only boat out fishing, and it gave me an opportunity to start reeling in line. I woke up (Cont. on page 5)

Shane, and he started reeling in lines while I brought in the planer boards.

"I knew it was a big fish. There are a few bright chinook salmon around, but this fish was different. It had to be a brown ... or, at least, I thought it should be a brown trout."

Casey is no stranger to big browns. A number of years ago he caught a 24-pound brown with a big hooked jaw and large spots. But, he went long minutes fighting a fish he hadn't seen. It stayed deep and away from the boat.

Fishing lines and planer board lines were cleared, and he began fighting the fish in earnest. It didn't want to come near the boat, but when he would work it close, the fish would turn and move away ... not fast, but hard enough to take line out against the drag.

Finally, it rolled over on its side and Casey thought it was a big brown trout from brief glimpses he'd seen. The fish finally gave in to rod pressure, and came up next to the boat. One dip of the net, and the fish was surrounded by mesh. One net screw pulled out as the fish was lifted into the boat.

"I sat down and looked at it, and thought 'Oooh, what a brown'," he said. "A hand-held digital scale was used, and it read 37 pounds 1 oz. It's a new state-record brown, and Shane and I celebrated before heading for shore."

Mother's Day is not a good day to get a big fish weighed on certified scales. No one had scales that would weigh over

30 pounds. Casey called me, told me the news, and we took it to Meijers, but they also had 30-pound scales. They sent us to Deerings Market on Union Street in Traverse City.

The fish was weighed on certified scales, witnesses by two people other than me. I didn't want any hint of collusion by me being one weighing witness. The fish was 39 inches long, had a 27-inch girth, and the certified weight was 36 pounds 13 ounces, just four ounces shy of his digital hand-held scales.

I called Todd Kalash of the Michigan DNR, and he met us at the office off South Garfield Road, and examined the fish.

"I'm 80 percent certain what it is but I'll have our District Fish Biologist Tom Rozich make the final determination tomorrow," Kalash said. "It's not a chinook salmon. The mouth is white, and the rays in the anal fin are wrong for a king. It is either an Atlantic salmon or a brown trout. Rozich will make the final decision, and if he isn't certain, a scale sample will be sent off for more positive testing.

"It will be a state record in either case," Kalash said. "It is two pounds heavier than the existing brown trout record and over four pounds heavier than the state-record Atlantic salmon."

So, folks, a simple email to me at < [dave@daverichey.com](mailto:dave@daverichey.com) > with one or two words is all I need. Study the photo, and you tell me: Is this a state-record Atlantic salmon or a brown trout? I've got my beliefs, and Casey wants it to be a brown but will be tickled either way.

## **2007 Boat Trolling Tournaments**

**2007 Tourney's and Port Captains as follows:**

**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)**

But I'm curious what you think. Send me an email, and I'll announce the fish's identity tomorrow if Rozich feels it is a clear-cut decision. If not, it will take some time for the scale sample to be studied and a final determination to be made.

Either way, I'm willing to bet that my nephew will have a tough time sleeping tonight.

Below are the unofficial results of the 2007 St Joseph Tournament.

11 boats  
 10 boats weighed in fish.  
 Total number of fish 25  
 19 Kings  
 4 Coho  
 2 Brown Trout

11th Bobby's Toy	0.00
10th Loki One	8.10
9th Lucky Strike	8.90
8th Thors Hammer	12.25
7th Pride & Joy	15.15
6th Billy B	24.50
5th Silver Addiction	34.75
4th Sloppy Joe	42.70
3rd No Limit	45.40
2nd Vicki's Seacret	51.95
1st Almost Paradise	84.95

Big Fish 18.45 # King, Almost Paradise, also \$55.00 Big Fish Pool winner.

Winner of the random draw \$50 gas card was Pride & Joy.



1<sup>st</sup> - Almost Paradise 84.95



2<sup>nd</sup> - Vicki's Seacret 51.95



Big Fish 18.45 # King, Almost Paradise



4<sup>th</sup> Sloppy Joe 42.70

## **St. Joe Tournament April 28**

The Detroit Steelheaders set out for big fish in St Joe. The day brought perfect fishing weather. Water temperature was still a little cool for spring fishing. The average temperature was 46.5. At the fish calls few fish were reported. During the day, Captains were checking in with each other to see if there was a magic spot that was holding fish. We could not find one.

At the weigh in, Almost Paradise brought in a nice King 18.45 pounds. If this is an indication of the fishing to come then the fish are going to be big, really big at the end of the year. For full tournament results go to the Detroit Steelheaders message board. Port Captain Alan Wiechert "Thor's Hammer" 313-999-6717

## **South Haven Tournament, May 5th**

On Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> the Detroit Area Steelheaders Rolled into South Haven for their 2<sup>nd</sup> trolling tournament of the season. The Captains meeting and Weigh in were held at the Black River Park This year. Although conveniently the docks are located right next to the boat launch the drive up and down the river to and from the lake was longer than usually so we decided the deadline to be back and in the weigh-in line would be at 3:30 instead of 3:00. With only four boats showing for this tournament Pride -n- Joy Warned all to come in Hungry. As they had prepared a warm lunch of freshly BBQ Chicken, beans, salads and more.

Even though the gas prices were outrageous , the weather was cloudy and we had an offshore wind. I am happy to say that none of those things proved to stand in the way of every boat catching fish. With only four boats entered we all new that 1 fish in the boat put us in the running as we left the pier heads that morning. And the weigh-in proved that was true, with only ounces separating the boats. Pride N Joy finished in First place , 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Bobby's toy and the winner of the \$50 gas card . 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was Almost Paradise The top 3 boats all came in with 5 fish. 4<sup>th</sup> place went to Sloppy Joe who also brought in the big fish of the day which was a king weighing in at 13.15lbs. Congratulations to everyone, it was yet another successful and fun tournament and I hope that more boats will show for the future tournaments. Whether we are hammering the fish or not our club always has a great time on and off the water.

Below are the unofficial results of the 2007 South Haven Tournament.

4 boats  
4 boats weighed in fish.  
Total number of fish 18  
4 Kings  
14 Lake Trout

4th Sloppy Joe	40.75
3rd Almost Paradise	47.40
2nd Bobby's Toy	50.75
1st Pride & Joy	54.10

Big Fish 13.15 # King, Sloppy Joe, also \$20.00 Big Fish Pool winner.