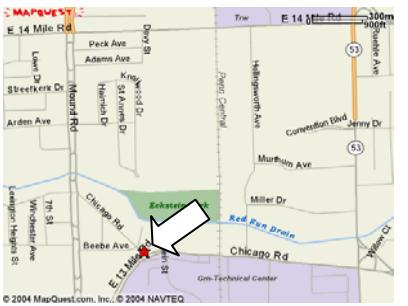


Come to a meeting!

Our meetings are in Warren at the St Pius K of C. The K of C hall is located at 6177 Chicago Rd. between Van Dyke and Mound Rd where Thirteen Mile and Chicago Rd intersect. Our meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the evening.



President: Jason Adam
Vice President: Bob Jones
Treasurer: Steve Hamilton
Secretary: Bob Feisel

2006 Boat Trolling Tournaments

- Date/Port (Port Captain)**
5/6 St. Joseph (Al Wiechert)

5/20, 5/21 Grand Haven 2-day (Bob Jones)

6/3 South Haven (Jason Adam)

6/17 Special People (Doug Karakas)

6/24 Port Austin Team Doubles (Blaise Pewinski)

7/22 Frankfort (Bob Fiesel)

8/5 Ludington Ladies Day (Chris Nytko)

8/12 Ludington (Mark Bevens)

8/26 Manistee (Bob Paradise)

9/9 Grand Haven II (Ron Pal)

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Non-Profit Org.
P.O. Box 1255

Sterling
Heights, Mi.

Fishin' Tales



April 2006
Volume XXXII, Issue 4

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Inside this Issue

- 1** April Meeting
Free Line
Why Fish Tournaments
- 2** Shirts and Hats
St. Joe Tourney
- 3** Autopilot
Membership Drive Ends
- 4** Meetings
Tournament Dates

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

April 25 Meeting

As always, the general meeting takes place at 7:30 P.M. at the St Pius K of C the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)- Warren.

In April, Great Lakes tournament pro and editor of Great Lakes Angler Magazine, Dave Mull will be in to give a informative seminar on Great Lakes Salmon trolling. Dave will be fresh off the Fishing Show circuit and gearing up for Tournament season.

FREE ANDE LINE

at April Meeting

Several members remarked that they forgot to bring their reels to the March meeting. As such, we have extended to the free line offer to

The Detroit Steelheaders will spool up to 4 reels for free. We have purchased Ande clear, 20lb test. We also have a smaller spool of 15 lb test. Just bring your reels to the April 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.

Why Fish Club Tournaments?

Those of you who fish our club tournaments regularly or who've done so in the past, might think you don't need to read any further. You already know all the many benefits. But, there may be some you haven't thought of, or maybe there are some you just take for granted. Let's explore some of the many benefits of fishing club tournaments.

Attitude

Before I try to describe some of the many reasons to fish our tournaments, let me first give you an idea of my experience. I've been salmon fishing for about twenty years. I fished mostly in Lake Huron, mostly in late summer and fall, with Harbor Beach and Rogers City seeing most of my efforts. Sometimes, we'd hit the jackpot and bring in a tremendous catch to the fish cleaning table. Just as often, however, we'd get skunked or be lucky to land one or two fish. In the past few years, I can't remember the last time getting skunked, (not counting last years Salmon Stakes). Sure I've got that much more experience and probably more and better equipment, but I don't believe that's the difference. I truly believe it's an attitude change. An attitude you can only get fishing tournaments.

When I started fishing the DAS tournaments regularly seven years ago, I noticed a couple of things very quickly at the weigh-ins. First, no matter how difficult the fishing was overall, there were always some boats that brought in a nice catch. That told me that there were always fish out there somewhere willing to hit some program. Secondly, I noticed the same Captains consistently brought in the heavy coolers. In my earlier days, if we weren't catching fish, we'll they're just not biting today. Now, I know better.

Learning Curve

For the rookie Captains just starting out, or even those without boats looking to give salmon fishing a try, fishing in club tournaments is absolutely the best way to shorten the learning curve. Most of us learned through trial and error, attending seminars and even fishing on charters. That works, of course, but it takes a long time. Our club has many excellent experienced Captains who need crew members throughout the season. We've also got many experienced members who don't have a boat, and who are looking to hitch a ride. Our Crews Program linking up Captains with crew is an excellent way for the newer guys to shorten that learning curve. Even if you've got years of experience, the salmon fishery is evolving every year and it seems lately at an ever faster pace. With changes in water depth, water clarity, forage base, and technology, etc. we've had to adapt. New methods and techniques have to constantly be incorporated to stay productive. It wasn't that many years ago that hardly anyone used wire line dipseys, lead core, cut bait, or more recently copper wire.

Variety, New Ports, Following the Best Fishing

Fishing a new port can be somewhat intimidating at times. Where are the best places to stay? Where is the launch ramp? What do you have to watch out for? The river at St Joseph or the Port Austin lighthouse are good examples. It's no secret that the Lake Huron fishery is at an all time low and our tournament schedule certainly reflects this. We all hope that this is just part of a cycle and that things will pick up again. In the meantime, those one day trips to Port Austin, Harbor Beach, Port Sanilac, etc. probably aren't in

your plans for this coming season. If you want to catch decent size salmon you'll either have to travel to Lake Michigan or Lake Ontario. That'll probably mean a weekend so you might as well follow our schedule. Our tournament schedule is planned to target the best ports at their optimum time.

Planning Ahead

How many of you at the end of the fishing season have thought, "I didn't fish as much as I wanted to this year." "Next year, I'll fish more" Does this ring a bell? Is it the same thing year after year? Well, I think the problem is lack of planning. Do you often wait until a few days before a weekend, decide you'd like to go fishing, and then start trying to line up your crew? How many of these end up not materializing because your buddies could have gone if they'd only known a week or two earlier.

Deciding to fish some or most of the tournaments will make you to line up your crew in advance, make your motel reservations, slip reservations, and encourage you to get your boat and gear ready. I find it also helps with getting your vacation schedule lined up early and for me, gets my schedule lined up with the wife early. When you hand her the schedule early in the year, it doesn't seem so bad because it's so far off. When the time finally comes and she says,

"You're going fishing again this weekend?" It's a lot easier when you can say, "It's on the schedule I gave you".

Safety

If you've never had a problem on the water before, it's only a matter of time. For me, it's a great sense of security to know that there are club members out there to lend a hand, (or tow), if needed. And it's not just problems on the water but back at the marina or even on the road. Just last year we had a couple of boats break down.

Improved Catches

There's no question that there's a certain amount of competitiveness between the teams during our tournaments. There's also a lot of sharing of information on where the fish are at and what they're hitting that'll put more fish in your cooler. Many times, after struggling during the tournament itself, we've slammed them in the evening after finding out what the top finishers programs were.

Preparation for Money Tournaments

A number of our Captains enjoy fishing in some of the many big money tournaments throughout the Great Lakes. What better way to gage your abilities and to prepare for a money tournament than to fish in our club tournaments.

I'm sure a left out some, but hopefully I've given you enough reasons to at least consider fishing some of our tournaments this year. Try it, you'll like it.

Shirts, Hats and Jackets

Ty Voigt will have the annual DAS "T" shirts and hats at this month's meeting at a price of \$10.00 each all sizes. He will also be taking new orders for any sweatshirts, polo shirts or jackets. Please see me at the meeting.

Thank You
Ty Voigt

FIRST TOURNAMENT St Joseph Sat, May 6th

If you have never fished St Joseph please be sure to pick up the St Joes flyers at the next Detroit Steelheaders meeting. Dockage and the captains meeting will be held at the West Basin Marina. The captains meeting will be

held at 5:30 a.m. with a tournament start at 6:30 a.m. There are a few new rules for the trolling tournaments and you should review them prior to the tournament. One of the new rules concerns additional points that may be given if the captain weighs in multiple species of fish. Lodging is plentiful at the I-94 exits (#30, 28 or 27) or in downtown ST. Joe

For more information Call Tournament Director: Joe von Grabe (586) 293-7688 or Port Captain: Al Wiechert (313) 999-6717.

2006 Key Dates

April 25 Member Meeting
May 30 Member Meeting
June 27 Member Meeting
July 25 Member Meeting

Autopilots

Tired of untangling lines because the fishing partner can't keep a 160 degree heading to save their life? Wondering how we missed our waypoint on this pass by a half mile again? Need another crew member to man the wheel while you fight a fish or work the net? An autopilot is an invaluable accessory,(or dare I say necessity), available or adaptable to almost any great lakes troller.

Today's generation of autopilots are computerized, and can be stand alone units, or integrated into an entire navigation array. At its most basic level, with a push of a button, the autopilot takes control and drives the boat straight (based on compass heading). When attached to a GPS, Chart plotter, or computer navigation system, the autopilot can be set to hit specific waypoints, and even run pre-

programmed routes. The autopilot can save time and gas getting from points A to B, put you right at the spot you want to be, and save headaches when you get there by keeping the boat straight.

Most autopilots are electric motor or hydraulic pump based, and which is right for you will depend on your vessel's steering system. Installation time and skills required can vary greatly from boat to boat, so do your research, and expect to pay for a fair amount of labor if you choose to have it professionally installed. Installation consists of a compass, user interface, and a drive unit. Some drive units are in the form of hydraulic pumps, while some are rotary motors. There may be additional accessories, such as rudder reference indicators and feedback units which will need to be installed as well. Proper installation is critical for any autopilot to perform properly. Take your time and research which autopilot is best for you and your boat, and if the installation required will be compatible with your vessel.

It should be noted that proper and responsible operating protocol must always be followed when using an autopilot. Never leave the helm and always stand watch while the vessel is underway. I have seen more than a few people injured and boats destroyed when the autopilot didn't see the boat or pier in its path.

With over 1000 hours on my autopilot, I can say it is the best investment on my boat, and I would never own another great lakes trolling boat without one. For additional autopilot discussion, visit the Boat Rigging forum at www.detroitsteelheaders.org

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ENDS IN APRIL

The Detroit Area Steelheader's new membership drive, with an incentive for current members to sign up new members ends at the April meeting. Any current Detroit Area Steelheader in good standing, who

brings in a new, paid member into the club, will receive an automatic 6 month extension on their current membership. New members will still receive all the benefits of club membership, as well as their new member pack. A member will get an additional six month extension for EACH additional new, paid member they bring in.

To ensure you receive your extension, please escort your new member to the membership table during a general membership meeting and inform the membership committee that you brought the member in upon their sign-up. If you refer a member and you are not at the General Membership meeting with them, or they choose to sign up by mail, it is their responsibility to inform the membership committee of your referral. For an extension to be granted, the membership committee must be informed of the referral at or before the time of the new member's payment.

New members also receive a packet. This packet will include; one DAS 30th Anniversary silver streak spoon, two Michigan Squids or Flies, a DAS fishing towel, two DAS decals for your boat or truck, a DAS patch for your jacket or vest, and Michigan maps and brochures. This is with a paid \$25.00 one year membership, or a \$150.00 lifetime membership, paid by the April meeting.

The members of our club are what make us successful, and without YOU, it will be hard to reach our goals.

See you at the next meeting,

Tom Moores—Membership Director

