

## 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/ 07 Key Dates

Nov. 28 Member Meeting  
Dec. 19 Christmas Meeting  
Jan. 30 Member Meeting  
Feb. 27 Member Meeting  
Mar. 10 Game Dinner  
Mar. 27 Member Meeting

## 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).

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[www.detroitsteelheaders.org](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org)

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

# Fishin' Tales



water than they are in 35 degree water.

Hit the rivers now and there is less of a chance that someone (or several some ones ) will be standing in your favorite hole. Couple active fish with few fisherman and you have the makings of a great weekend.

P.S. Why not try the Clinton River. It's close to home and the DNR has been planting it for years.

## November 28 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. 2007

**Elections** for the Board of Directors will be coming in December. Have you thought about how you can support your club? Think about running for Director and contact one of the current directors. Tell them that you are interested in being on the board.

## Steelhead Time

Many fisherman think of the Spring as Steelhead Time. Savvy Steelheaders like that thought as it keeps the pressure off of their favorite honey holes until that Spring madness.

The reality is that some of the very best steelhead fishing occurs in late November and December. Many people don't realize that steelhead start coming into the rivers in the late fall. These fish are silver and full of fight.

Steelhead like all fish are cold blooded. As such they are affected by temperature. They are more active in 42 degree

## Steelhead Rules - by Tom "T.J." Nelson

(from steelheaduniversity.com)

Each and every sport has a set of rules and steelheading is no different. In football for instance you are penalized yardage for various rule infractions. Steelhead however, impose much more severe sanctions: Break their rules and they will not even let you play! The following general "rules" are a suggested course of action designed to get you into steelhead more consistently. Bend them, adapt them into your specific plans & places, but don't break 'em...the penalties can be painful...

**1. Learn to read water**  
Easily the single most important facet of the education of a river fisherman is learning to read water. I define reading water as: The learned ability to observe a body of water and subsequently predict where fish will be found. By learning to identify high-probability areas we eliminate large, unproductive sections of river. This enables us to concentrate our fishing efforts on the productive runs, which increases our chances of success.

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.  
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Non-Profit Org.  
P.O. Box 1255

Sterling  
Heights, Mi.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

## 2. Fish the edges.

These three little words uttered to the Author many years ago by an experienced guide have had a tremendous impact upon my steelheading success. Once you've attained a basic understanding of reading water you will encounter edges. Edges can be areas of current break, depth change, structure influence or light contrast (shading). Simply stated, edges separate an area of steelhead holding water or cover from a section of less desirable water. Once a steelhead enters a "comfortable" holding area he's taking a break for a while and quite often will not go much farther than just inside the edge. Put yourself in his fins for a minute: Let's say you're hot & tired from honey-do's in the sun and heading into the shade for a rest. There's a large shaded area with two chairs: one is just inside the shade and one is in the middle. One more thing...You don't want the wife to catch you loafing in the shade. Now, where are you gonna sit?

## 3. Select a section of river near your home and learn it like the back of your hand.

In most of Steelhead country we are fortunate to have a variety of steelhead streams from which to choose. Pick a river close to home so that you'll have the opportunity to visit it often. Make a point of observing your "crick" in all stream flows but in times of low water in particular. It is in the seasonal low flows of late summer and early fall that the classroom is open. This is the time to learn the location of the troughs, holes, boulders and stream bed current breaks that cannot be observed when the water is higher. Note their location and then observe the surface

disturbance that results from these features. What creates a slick? What creates a riffle? What causes that standing wave? The answers to these questions can all be seen at low water and the knowledge gleaned from these experiences form the basis of learning to read water.

## 4. Become a technique specialist

It only takes a quick walk through the tackle shop to notice the dizzying array of gear available to today's steelheader. While the ever-increasing diversity of gear and techniques is a boon to experienced anglers, to the novice it becomes difficult to see the forest through the trees. What the veteran steelheader would view as different solution to a fishing challenge, just adds another confusing piece to the novices' puzzle. To become an expert at all the available techniques would take more time than the Good Lord gives us on this planet. Many steelheaders find it hard to specialize when they see other guys catching fish on lures that they don't have. Then, they make a mad rush to the tackle shop to buy these rigs for their next outing. As a result, they soon have every lure in the tackle shop and they don't know how to use any of them. So, what's a guy (or girl) to do? Pick one or two techniques, stick with them and become a specialist. I would suggest standard drift fishing gear with eggs or shrimp and learning to backroll plugs. These two techniques will allow you to have the flexibility to tackle most of the river conditions that you will face in the course of an average season.

## 5. Fish "Prime Time"

Each and every stream has its own distinct peak fishing periods in terms of both fish run timing and optimum flow level. When these two conditions coincide, you guessed it: It's "Prime Time". These are the times to call in sick, sneak out of that family

engagement, slip out the back, Jack and go catch a stee-lee.

In general terms, after any high water period, the rivers will drop and recede into that dialed-in green color. When this happens during the peak of the hatchery run (usually two weeks either side of Christmas) get out on the river at all costs. The bottom line: If your wife isn't mad at you, you're just not fishing enough.

## 6. High rivers: fish high in the system. Low rivers: low in the system.

After the aforementioned high water, where does the hungry steelheader look for dinner? Up high in the system of course. This is somewhat of a no-brainer in that these areas will be the first to drop in to fishing shape but the second part of the equation needs to be discussed. High water is a green light to migrating salmonids. The low visibility of the river at these times allows the fish to feel safe and so they will travel almost non-stop night and day. During low water however, the reverse is true. The near-unlimited visibility of the clear river will cause the fish to seek cover during the daylight hours and so will not move up river as rapidly. Therefore, when the upriver areas begin to get a little stale as the water drops, look to the lower (just above tide water) to middle river holes for bright, aggressive fish just in from the saltwater.

## 7. High visibility-high speed. Low visibility-low speed.

When the river is clear the visual attraction of your terminal gear is at its highest. Since the steelhead can see your gear at increased distances and will move to pick up your bait or lure, this

is the time for presentations at or near current speed. Fishing at the speed of the current (drift fishing or boondogging, free drifting) allows you to cover the most water in the shortest period of time. However, during periods of reduced visibility, slower presentations such as backrolling or floats & jigs can be more effective since the lure will stay in the strike zone for a longer period of time. Slowing down your lure allows the steelhead more opportunity to locate and intercept your offering at a time when a faster presentation might just whiz by unnoticed.

## 8. Get a boat.

Without question, you can cover more water in a boat than you can on foot. Not only does this translate in to more fish but it also brings another dimension to the fishing experience. From a boat you'll learn more about a stretch of river in a single day than you would in an entire season from the bank. Do you fish freshwater exclusively? Then a driftboat might just be the ticket. Are you a saltwater angler as well? A forward helm North River Sportster will do double duty on the rivers as well as the Sound. Does duck season find you on the marshes with dog and decoys? North River makes a great six-degree bottom Scout that's a fine river sled that can double as a duck boat. Whatever your choice, hook up with the guys at Bayside Outboard in Everett or Tacoma North River. With North River dealers you will find the expert advice you need to make the smart hull and rigging choices that will maximize your fishing effectiveness and enjoyment.

## 9. You can't catch 'em if you don't jerk.

All things being equal, the guy who has "the touch" will catch the most fish. Simply stated "the touch" is the ability to maintain the correct tension on your line so you readily recognize the bite and then set the hook at the right time. Getting "the touch" comes with experience and there is no substitute for time on the water. However, I can offer a few tips to help you along.

**Tension:** never let your line go completely slack. Slack is the "feel" killer and if you cannot feel the bite the deck is stacked against you. The one exception to this is bobber fishing. Your bobber is then the strike indicator and what you are essentially doing is sight fishing. The other tension extreme is keeping the line so tight that you lose bottom contact which also decreases your effectiveness. Find that happy medium and you'll be making some ironheads very unhappy.

**The bite:** recognizing the bite is simply a matter of growing accustomed to the rhythm of the drift as your sinker tangos down the riverbed. Imagine someone pulling on your hook two or three times with a rubber band in addition to the river bottom rhythm and you've got a bite!

**The hook set:** This should be a matter of pride to any self-respecting steelheader. Just like the golfer who enjoys out-driving his regular foursome on Saturday morning, you should strive to have the nastiest hook set on the crick. The air should absolutely be ripped by your rod when you feel a bite. After all, you can't catch 'em if you don't jerk.

## 10. Fish the best times in the areas that you know best. (Home field advantage)

This is rule #3 plus rule #5. The whole concept is greater than the sum of its parts, so it gets to be rule #10 (I was never very good at math anyway). Once you've picked your crick you'll eventually find out when the fish are in thick and this is when you'll be paid off for all of your hard work. By bringing all your local knowledge to bear when the fish are plentiful you'll be the ace for the day and that my friends, is very rewarding.

## 11. Invest in your sport and get involved with an organization.

These days no matter what type of fishing you like to do, there is probably a group, club, or organization that will satisfy your needs. I would heartily encourage you to do an internet search and find one of these groups. Not only will you be meeting a like-minded group of people but you'll likely gain valuable fishing information from other members. In addition, many fishing groups are actively involved in fisheries and habitat enhancement programs which is the best way to give a little back to the resource. One thing I know you'll find out: the more you give the more you'll get back in return.

## Charter School Info.

Thinking of being a Charter Captain? Captain School is located on the Huron River in Flat Rock Michigan. Our U.S. Coast Guard approved training program prepares you for a part-time or full-time career as a: Fishing Charter Captain, Tour Boat Operator, Scuba Boat Operator, Marine Salvage, Towing, Sailing Charters, Vessel Deliveries, Yacht Mover and more. At the Charter Captain School, we teach you all you need to know in order to pursue your next full or part time career. Our students take the Coast Guard exam with us. We are proud of our 100% success rate and will give our all to help you fulfill your goal to become a captain. The classes that are offered are as follows: OUPV 6 Pack, Master, Upgrade to Master, Refresher, Towing, CPR, and First Aid. Ask if you qualify for tuition reimbursement.

For further information contact us at: Charter Captain School  
15005 Telegraph Rd  
Flat Rock, MI 48134  
734-243-9665 Voice/Fax  
[www.chartercaptainschool.com](http://www.chartercaptainschool.com)

## **President signs Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Act Funding doubles to \$80 million over 5 years**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Bush signed into law a measure that will double funding to rehabilitate fish and wildlife habitat in the lakes.

The signing of Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Act, which increases funding for fish and wildlife protection from \$8 million to \$16 million per year, will preserve and enhance some of the Midwest's premiere recreational destinations for outdoor enthusiasts.

The bill also represents a victory in the continuing quest for a broader restoration of the Great Lakes, a strategy that was released last year as part of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. Reauthorization of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Act was a goal adopted in that plan.

This bill provides a new authority for the USFWS to take on regional projects based on recommendation by states and tribes for the regional benefit of fish and wildlife. ✧

From: GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT — GLSFC.

## ***Fish study continues in the Detroit River Int'l Wildlife Refuge***

The USFWS has teamed up with state and other federal agencies to conduct the second fishery survey within

the recently established refuge. The Refuge boundary includes Michigan waters of the Lower Detroit River and Lake Erie. The last time a similar fishery survey was conducted was back in the early 1980s. Since that time many changes have taken place, including the addition of exotic species that have impacted native species.

The first part of the survey took place last year in September with efforts focusing on wetland areas located along western Lake Erie. The second part of the survey was conducted this year to identify wetland areas being used as nursery areas during the month of July.

The primary goal with this project was to provide baseline information about what species, both native and exotic, are using the remaining wetland complexes found within Refuge waters in the lower Detroit River. The Refuge provides some of the last remaining natural wetland areas available in the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie. Refuge manager John Hartig and DNR Biologist Joe Robison continue to meet with landowners within the Refuge boundaries seeking management agreements to protect the remaining wetlands. Those nursery areas are critical to the early life stages of many species of sport fish as well as some state listed species. Historical records from past surveys have identified over thirty species of fish using those wetland habitats for either spawning or nursery areas.

During the September 2005 survey along western Lake Erie (using both electro-fishing and seining) 46 different fish species were collected. We were able to demonstrate that some state listed species as well as many economically valuable sport fish species (walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and other sunfishes) were using those locations as nursery areas. In 2006 sampling took place in July, earlier in the season

with the rationale that many of the species spawn early in the spring and would still be residing in the nursery areas. With the exception of one location in western Lake Erie all sampling took place in the lower Detroit River.

Sampling consisted of 14 seine hauls, electro-fishing at 24 locations, and 29 fyke net sets. They caught a total of 11,814 fish representing 55 species from 15 families. Two species, the silver lamprey and the state listed silver chub, were collected last year but not found this year. Ten new species were captured this year that were not represented in last year's catch including alewife, muskie, rainbow trout, striped shiner, honeyhead chub, black buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, silver redhorse, northern hog sucker, and white crappie.

Again this year a number of economically important species of sportfish were using the limited number of wetland areas as nursery grounds. This effort is a critical first step in identifying the current status of fish species within the newly created Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and will aid the refuge with establishing its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. ✧