

Fishin' Tales

February 2005
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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

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February Meeting

The speaker for the Feb.22 membership meeting is long time river

Fisherman, Don Calhoun. Don will be presenting a talk and slide show on his helicopter fly-in steelhead trip from last fall in British Columbia.

If you dream of BIG STEELIES, you will want to see Don's show and the fish that were taken.



Figure 1 Don Calhoun

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

CLUB JACKETS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Be sure to pick-up a order form for your new club jacket and sweatshirts Remember the club will refund \$5.00 to those who order a jacket only (sorry not sweatshirts) thru the month of March. When the club orders 10 jackets or more the vendor will refund \$5.00 as well. So, what better time to order your jacket or sweatshirt

30th SPOONS

To commemorate the club's 30th Anniversary, we had Wolverine Tackle make up custom 30th Anniversary Silver Streak spoons.

These spoons come with our club name & 30th Anniversary overlaid on Wolverine's best colors in regular and magnum sizes.

These spoons will also be available for sale at our membership meetings for a limited time at 3 for \$10, the same price our 25th year spoons cost five years ago.



Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
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News letter raffle report for January 2003

January was a very successful month for D.A.S. members. Big ticket items were given away in the tackle raffle, the 50/50 take was one of the largest in recent months. We even had a winner for the monthly membership raffle.

A DAS windbreaker, DAS sweatshirt, ice fishing kit with rod, reel, tip-up and strainer, a Coleman portable propane heater and a nice Eagle Claw downrigger rod were all given away for the January tackle raffle.

The 50/50 drawing was a huge success as well, especially for member/BOD Sectary Bob Feisel. Bob took home a cool \$93.00. Not bad for a dollar investment.

Ray Banbury was the winner for this month's membership drawing, Ray picked up and easy \$30.00 for nothing more than being present at the meeting. I am sure Linda thanks you!

The club took in \$240.00 for the tackle raffle, \$186.00 for the 50/50, with a total payout of \$123.00. Bottom line is \$303.00 for the club.

On behalf of the members of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, I would like to say a special thank you to Ty Voigt for his pass service as Raffle Chairman. As well as giving me a clean and tidy system to start my term as the new Raffle Chairman. Thanks to Nick Amicone for collecting the funds for the tackle raffle and to Dwayne Welder for collecting the funds for the 50/50 raffle.

Remember, we can't win if you don't play, and you can't play if you are not present for the meetings.

Keep watching the news letter and making the meetings for future enhancements to the raffles. Any input for improvements from members is always welcome. Please see me at the meetings or drop me a note on our message board.

Sincerely,
Bob Jones
"Bobby's Toy"
Raffle Chairman

SIXTH ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S DINNER

A reminder for those who have bought tickets. The Sixth Sportsmen's Dinner is Saturday, March 5, 2005. We will be at the same location as last year's dinner; the Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center at 33633 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore, 2.4 miles east of I94 (Exit #243). Tom Moores is the contact person for the Wild Game Dinner. His cell phone is 248-866-0663.

TOURNAMENT TROLLING TIPS - Spoons

Those of you who have followed my articles know I tout "attention to detail" as one of the key separators of the top skippers from the pack. All you have to do is step on a top boat and you will see what I am talking about.

When it comes to spoons, there is more to the game than having all of the colors and sizes. In fact, many top skippers have less, not more spoons. They rely on the "A" team; a select group of top quality spoons that they know will produce in the majority of situations. There are \$1 spoons and there are \$3-4 spoons. Most of the time there is a difference. Popular spoons with top skippers include Silver Streaks, Pro Kings and NK's. Yes, there are others that are worth trying from time to time and you might find a brand that you like or better yet, the salmon like. But, remember, the \$1 spoon you don't use is more expensive than the \$4 spoon you use all the time. I tell

<p align="center"><u>2005 Boat Trolling Tournaments</u></p> <p>April 23 - St. Joe Joe von Grabe</p> <p>April 30 - Salmon Stakes Dean Meyers</p> <p>May 21 - Grand Haven 2 Day Bob Jones</p> <p>June 4th - Pt. Austin Team Doubles Blaise Pewinski</p> <p>June 18 - Special People Doug Karakas</p> <p>June 25 - Frankfort Bob Fiesel</p> <p>July 16 - BFQ</p> <p>August 6 - Ludington Ladies Day Bill Stanely</p> <p>August 13 - Ludington Mike Vigus</p> <p>August 27 - Manistee Bob Paradise</p> <p>September 10 - Grand Haven Chris Nytko</p>

new skippers to buy a dozen top line spoons in proven colors. I'll bet you will keep them wet more than any other.

Colors and finishes vary from year to year. Over the past few years silver plate has remained the #1 finish for spoons followed by those with white backs. Real silver reflects blue light better than nickel or chrome and since blue light penetrates deeper in the water, I believe it produces more fish attracting flash. For primary colors, blue, green and chartreuse are perennial favorites. Try one of the "Dolphin" patterns. Other colors to try are white, black, Monkey Puke and purple (Kevorkian). Who knows what the hot color for 2005 will be. If you are targeting steelhead, be sure to include spoons with red or orange. The new metallic finishes that mimic minnows are great looking and seem to attract fish.

Early in the morning or when fishing particularly deep (75' plus) a little glow tape often seems to help, too. I emphasize "little" because this is often an area where a lot is not good. The new "double glows" seem promising, but I would be careful to not charge them too bright.

To see what patterns to buy you only have to walk the charter boat docks. Whatever color patterns you see on the most charter boats, you can take to the bank.

The best spoons won't catch as many fish if the hooks are dull. Today, spoons come right out of the package with pretty sharp hooks. However, this is a detail that top skippers will not overlook. They insure that every hook is

sticky sharp when it goes into the water. "Good enough" is for chumps. The difference between 7 for 10 and 5 for 10 can be top-five versus tenth place. Be sure you use top quality swivels, too. Any swivel can handle a 10 lb king, but don't risk that 25+ brute on a 25 cent swivel. Use a small, yet quality swivel like a Sampo and be ready when Mr. Big shows up.

When you're on the lake, test your spoons to see at what speed they seem to work best. Set one about four feet behind a cannon ball lowered only 2 feet deep. Then, vary your speed to see what the spoon does. Not all spoons run best at the same speed. That's why it is generally best to stick with one brand in your spread. You will also see what range that spoon will run in. The final test will be when the fish tell you what works best, but a little pre-fish testing will give you a starting point and also give you some ideas next time things "stop" happening.

Spoons are one of the most productive lures for salmon trolling. Use them right and pay attention to detail and they will produce for you, too. El-lin Charters

Clinton River Steelhead

By BOB GROSS
Of The Daily Oakland Press

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources plans to stock 10,000 more steelhead this spring in the Clinton River than usual.

The Clinton's allotment of the prized game fish will be 25,000, up from 15,000.

"It's just so exciting," said Dan Keifer, development director

for the Clinton River Watershed Council. "It's such good news for the interest of both the river and river users like the fishermen.

"Obviously, it's an indication that the river can support more fish and more fishing."

In an e-mail posted to the watershed council's list serve, the DNR cites fishing pressure on the Clinton as the reason for the increase. Anglers regularly line the banks at Yates Dam in Rochester Hills during March, April and May to catch the silvery trout as they head upstream from Lake St. Clair.

"The Clinton River just gets a lot of fishing on it," said Keifer. "This is the DNR responding to the interest of fishermen using the Clinton to put more fish where the fishermen are."

The DNR was able to find the extra fish for the Clinton by reducing allotments for the Belle River and Mill Creek in St. Clair County to 7,000 and 10,000 fish, respectively. Those two streams don't get the fishing pressure, according to the DNR, that the Clinton does.

A DNR survey several years ago found that anglers spent about 21,000 hours fishing during the six-week spring steelhead run, primarily in the stretch of the river from Yates Dam to Ryan Road.

Steelhead are lake-run rainbow trout. They're either born in a river or released there, spend about two to three years in the open water, then return to spawn.

Like Pacific salmon, steelhead are natives of the Northwest that were transplanted into the Great Lakes. Unlike salmon,

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however, they can spawn more than once.

While they may reach 20 pounds in weight, the average adult size is 9 to 10 pounds.

In 2003, the DNR released 30,000 steelhead smolts - yearling fish - into the Clinton. Those fish should start returning to spawn this spring.

"We're very pleased, certainly for the fishing and the fishermen and the recreation," said Keifer, "but we're also pleased because this is sort of a good canary in the coal mine evidence to the general public that this river is not polluted. Heck, it supports fish; heck, it supports trout; heck, it supports even more.

New DAS Web Site

The new 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.

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, you are expired (no; just your membership!) Don't be disqualified from a tournament because you forgot to re-up.

See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to the club post office box 1255 listed below. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

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MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY