

# Fishin' Tales

March 2005  
Volume XXXI, Issue 3

www.detroitsteelheaders.org



At the March meeting we will be selling this year's annual special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition T-shirt at a special price; M, L or XL for \$10.00 and 2XL or 3XL for \$12.00.

## 30<sup>th</sup> SPOONS

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

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

These spoons will 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.

## First Tournament St. Joe - April 23

Gentlemen start your engines! It is that time of year when the Detroit Steelheaders turn to the soon to be open water of the big lakes. Thoughts of bagging that monster brown, fighting that king, and landing that laker will become tomorrow's reality. The first trolling tournament is at the port of St. Joseph / Benton Harbor on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The available docks are at the West Basin Marina. Slips are usually not a problem that time of year. Hotels are plentiful at the I-94 exits (#30, 28 or 27) or in downtown St. Joe.

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## March Meeting Swap Meet

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.

As always, the general 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

The March meeting will be the last chance to order club jackets and sweatshirts with a club kick back of \$5. If I order more than 10 jackets the vendor will kick in an added \$5. I will place the order on April 1. Order forms will be at the meeting. Payment in full is required.

You can also fill out an order form with your payment and send them to me. (No checks will be cashed until April.)

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

Use caution when you are motoring from the DNR or Municipal launches. Remember to hug the wall going down stream until you get to the bridge, then cross over to left side. The bridge is not that tall so do not put your poles in your rocket launchers until after the bridge.

Typical setup is that of a spring fishery with spoons and body baits (Long-A Bombers, Rebels or Rapalas) being the main choices. Try some smaller baits in your setup because many fish will be immature. (Let the fish be the final decision maker on size and color.) Be prepared to use dual planner boards, Yellow Birds, or other in-line planers.

This is usually a good time for the Coho, so try some orange set ups. Hopefully, there will be 20 pound kings in the area too. St Joe can be the hottest port of the entire year. (Remember Lake Trout are not in season until May.)

Traditional hot spots include the color line at the pier, Cook nuclear plant, the "junk cars" and the "Chalets" south of the pier head. (But then again, one skipper won this tournament going North!)

The Captains meeting will be at 5:30 A.M. **prompt.** (Please review the rules on the DAS web site if you have not! If you are unsure of a rule; "Ask".)

At this time we intend to have the Captain meeting at the West Basin Marina where most boats will have slips. Fish calls at 9:00 A.M. and Noon. We will be pulling lines at 2:30. You must be in line at the weigh-in by 3:30. The weigh-in and lunch will be at the West Basin Marina.

For more information Call Port Captain: Al Wiechert "Thors Hammer" 734-368-5737 or Trolling Director Joe von Grabe "Sloppy Joe" 586-293-7688

**2005 Boat Trolling Tournaments**

**April 23 - St. Joe**  
Al Wiechert-734-368-5737

**April 30 - Salmon Stakes**  
Dean Meyers

**May 21 - Grand Haven 2 Day**  
Bob Jones

**June 4th - Pt. Austin Team Doubles**  
Blaise Pewinski

**June 18 - Special People**  
Doug Karakas

**June 25 - Frankfort**  
Bob Fiesel

**July 16 - BFQ**

**August 6 - Ludington Ladies Day**  
Bill Stanely

**August 13 - Ludington**  
Mike Vigus

**August 27 - Manistee**  
Bob Paradise

**September 10 - Grand Haven**  
Chris Nytko

**Trolling Director**  
Joe von Grabe "Sloppy Joe" 586-293-7688

**Raffle report for Feb.**

The February meeting turn out was a bit on the light side which had somewhat of an impact on the 50/50 and membership raffles.

A DAS sweatshirt, Eagle Claw downrigger rod, soft sided tackle box with 3700 Plano style boxes, filet knife set with case, quick release rod holder and a tackle pack for spring and river fishing consisting of 4 crank baits, a mini streak and fiberglass cleaner rounded out the prizes

given away at the February meeting tackle raffle.

The 50/50 drawing was a success, especially for our very own coffee man; Jimmy Lee. Jimmy took home a cool \$86.00. Not bad for a dollar investment.

Ty Bacik's name was drawn for the membership raffle. Unfortunately for Ty, he did not make the meeting and thus did not qualify for the \$3000.00, I mean \$30.00 prize. The booty goes to \$40.00 for next month.

Look forward to some good prizes being given away next month. Tackle packs full of fish catching lures, a net, and another downrigger rod and... well you will have to come to the meeting to find out!

Keep in mind that your support of the raffles supports the club which in turn gives the DAS the money to support various fish related projects through out our state. Thank you for your support.

I would like to say thank you 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, you 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.

Bob Jones "Bobby's Toy"  
Raffle Chairman

## Spring Tactics

The tactics that you will employ at St Joe, the Salmon Stakes and at other ports in the spring differ from other times of the year.

The Spring fishery is generally a near shore, shallow water fishery. The salmon and brown trout are generally feeding on baitfish near shore in warmer water areas. These might be the mouths of creeks or warm water discharges from power plants.

The temp reading on your sonar graph may be your best tool in the spring. Also look for color changes as they can signal temperature changes, too. Fish are cold blooded, but the food chain (bait) seems to migrate to warmer areas. Find the bait and you will find the salmon.

Typical methods include long lining baits to keep them away from the boat. In shallow water, fish tend to move off to the side of the boat as it approaches rather than allowing a boat to troll over them. As a result, planer boards, either in-line such as Yellow Birds, Walleyboards, Offshore boards or dual planers such as the Offshore Dual Planers can put your lures off to the side where the fish have moved. Just remember that these set-ups can reduce your maneuverability, so be careful in shallow water or in boat packs. Don't be afraid to get off by yourself, vary your speed and troll in lazy "S's". Fish in shallow water can become boat shy in a hurry.

One of the most popular baits for early spring fishing on Southern Lake Huron is the Long A Bomber or a similar

bait such as the Rebel Fast Track or Rapala Minnow.

On Lake Michigan your primary target may likely be Coho. In that case a smaller sized bait will be more productive; especially when it comes to putting fish number 8 in the boat.

Stick baits look a lot like smelt which are often schooling near shore this time of year. Another hot baits can be the Hot-n-Tot or Wiggle Wart. Its rounder body shape is more like that of an alewife.

The hot colors vary from year to year, but gold/ orange back, Silver/ black back, Fire Tiger (green/ chartreuse with black stripes), Wonderbread (White with colored dots) are often good starting choices. Color preferences can change as the sun comes up, so stay awake and change up when you hit a lull.

The hooks on some stick baits are more suitable for a bass than for big kings. Skippers often replace the tail hook with a 4x strong treble hook; big enough to tackle a king. (Silver Steak sized) Also, my experience has been that removing the front treble on the Bomber or Rapala results in less bottom hang-ups in shallow water.

Have a few big lip Bombers to vary the depth of your lures to get them where the fish are. At times, the big lips will out perform regular lipped lures.

Spoons can be the lure of choice in the spring, too. The combination of near shore shallow water and Cohos says try red or orange spoons. On the Wisconsin side Skippers often run all red OOO dodgers with small flies. Again, try

downsizing ala a Stinger in gold/ orange.

Start the year with fresh line. That generally means 17 or 20-lb. test for me. However, I have observed that boats running 12 or 14-LB test seem to do better in the spring.

Sometimes depth control requires adding lead in-line. I think the easiest and fastest way to do this is to have an assortment of lead rubber-core sinkers. Twist them on the line 4 or 5 feet in front of your bait. Don't put them 10 feet in front or you won't be able to reel your fish to the net. Don't put them too close or you will kill the lure action.

As always attention to detail is important. Rubber core sinkers sometimes have a sharp edge on them just waiting to bite your line off when a big king hits. Remove the rubber core before you go fishing and lightly file the end opening to make sure there aren't any sharp edges.

Some of the new add-on weights developed for the walleye circuit also work well in the spring. A box of assorted weights will cost about 20 bucks and be useful all season long.

Dipsy Divers are also a good spring tactic. Set the diver to 2 ½ or 3 to get it as far from the boat as you can. Stick baits or spoons are good choices for these, too.

Pre-fish or "walk the docks" to focus in on what's hot. Be flexible, listen to the fish and they will tell what they want. Spring fishing can be the best of the year!

EI-lin Charters

**New DAS Web Site**

The new DAS website is up and running. [www.detroitsteelheaders.org](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org)

Check out the pictures. More are added all the time.

Be sure to sign up for the message board so you can get and participate in sharing information. You need to do this as this site is where you will get important last minute, up to date information regarding the club and fishing.

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.



**Figure 1 New State Record Caught on Big Manistee!\*\*\***

**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.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to the club post office box (1255 in Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255).

Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.



**NEW STATE RECORD**

A new state record was set for hooking Detroit Area Steelheaders. But then again, it is close to April Fools Day!

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