

Fishin' Tales

May 2005
Volume XXXI, Issue 5

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

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May Meeting

The May regular member meeting will focus on salmon boats. Come to hear and share good information. In addition, the May meeting will feature a number of boats on display in the parking lot. See how seasoned Captains rig their boats.

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 T-Shirts

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

Port Austin Tournament June 4th, 2005 Team Doubles

It's that time again for the Detroit Area Steelheaders to visit the most successful port on the Great Lakes. Lake trout should be the main catch of the day with a few kings mixed

in. Last year we even had a catch of Brown trout weighed in.

Lakers should be taken on a variety of lures, with White Dodgers and spin-n-glo's, presented a foot or two off bottom. The best spoons like Wal-mart, glow screwballs, M,J'S and Dolphins, fished deep or for suspended fish. I would expect we will have some heavy coolers at weigh-in. Good areas to fish: the "CAN" located N.W. of the lighthouse. And the area 3 miles N.E. of the light on the reef in 60-100 ft of water.

A word to the wise **DO NOT GO BETWEEN THE LIGHT HOUSE AND SHORE!** Many boats have been damaged by this shallow reef. Remember stay west and North with your travels.

Skippers meeting will be at 5:00 a.m. Located by the Restrooms. Tournament starts at 6:00 a.m. Fish calls at 9:00 a.m. and at noon. Pull lines by 2:00 p.m. You must be at the weigh-in by 3:00 p.m. at the park west of the restrooms.

Team Doubles will be picked after weigh-in for Sunday. (1st boat paired with last, 2nd with next to last, etc.) Be sure to let me know if you will be staying. This is a great way to learn from others.

For more information Call Port Capt. Blaise Pewinski (Sea Hag)
Home= (810)-395-4774 Cell=
1(248)-890-4517

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



Grand Haven Times

Official times for the Grand Haven Tournament will be announced at the Skippers meeting, but tentative times have been revised for Sunday. Saturday lines in by 6:00 AM, first fish call at 9:00 AM, second at Noon, pull lines at 2:00 PM, be in line for the weigh-in by 3:00 PM. Day two will start at 6:00 AM Sunday with no captains meeting, fish calls at 9:00 and pull lines at noon, be in line by 1:00.

Raffle report for April 2005

We had a good turn out for our April membership meeting. Spring meetings bring out the fisherman looking for good fishing information, new equipment and someone to swap stories with. Ticket sales were brisk for both the 50/50 and tackle raffle.

April is one of our larger meetings so we planned accordingly and gave away a good amount of prizes. An Eagle Claw downrigger rod, telescoping salmon fishing net, filet knife, and 4 tackle packs for spring and summer trolling. The tackle packs consisted of 1 mag, 1 regular, 1 mini Silver Streak, 1 flasher, 1 Action Fly and 1 Richey Squid rounded out the give away.

The 50/50 drawing was a success, especially for our very own Director Jason Adam who took a cool \$87.00 for his new rod holders. My offer still stands Jason!

A special thank you goes out to young Billy Batty, first mate on the Slapshot fishing team He had

the tiresome task of pulling all those winning tickets.

Michael Tolman Jr. name was drawn for the membership raffle, unfortunate for Mike he did not make the meeting, thus did not qualify for the \$50.00 prize. The booty goes to \$60.00 for next month.

Look forward to some good prizes being given away next month as well. 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 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 - News letter raffle report for April 2005

St Joe a Blow Out!

Thursday and Fridays fishing had been slow and inconsistent. Strong seas and changing wind directions throughout the week seemed to have the fish scattered and tight lipped. Air was cold and wet, and seas were sloppy but fishable. By 3:00pm Friday

though, Mother Nature decided to make good on the forecasts, and the waves started building. By 8:00PM Friday, waves were breaking over the pier heads.

A captains meeting was held at 5:30AM Saturday Morning at West Basin Marina. Due to fourteen foot seas and gale force winds, with no signs of letting up, it was a unanimous decision was made to cancel the 2005 DAS St. Joe's tournament for the weekend. Captains Jason Adam(Outta line) and Paul Gjeldum(Blue Horizon) and crews were the only boats in attendance.

DAS Web Site

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

With the boat trolling season starting up, I would like to encourage members and non-members alike who have not visited the Detroit Area Steelheaders website to surf on over and look around a bit. Club news, copies of current and past newsletters, club tournament, outing, and meeting info, links to weather and fishing sites, and an extensive club photo gallery are all available online. The Tournaments page has links to information on the ports the club will be fishing, and will be updated with tournament results as the boat trolling season progresses. The Message Board is a great place to exchange information and get current fishing reports, and I encourage users to add their own reports as you get out on the water.

Jason Adam -Webmaster-

2005 Boat Trolling Tournaments

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

Trailer Lights

Probably the number one complaint among DAS towers is the amount of time and effort it takes to keep trailers in shape. We demand a lot of a trailer. We often tow 250 miles each way and at least part of the trip is in the dark. That means for safety sake and to avoid tickets, we need working lights. And lights are the number one problem with trailers. We've all spent way too many hours lying on our backs trying to find the loose wire or replacing the burned out bulb just before a long haul. Replacing the bulb is a lot cheaper than the damage to your boat when someone doesn't see that you are standing on the brakes.

Now there is finally help on the way. LED lights are showing up on commercial trucks and trailers for a very good reason – durability. These lights work.

They last longer, they are totally waterproof and they use less electricity. For regular light bulbs you can expect about 3000 hours max., of service. (If you're lucky) LED's are rated for 100,000 hours.

Fortunately, replacement kits are now available for retro-fitting boat trailers. Yes, they are more expensive than cheap, regular lights. A set will probably run \$50 to \$80. But, that is the price for peace of mind and rock solid durability. Places like Boat US, West Marine, Mikes Marine, etc., all carry replacement LED based lights. The swap is generally straight forward and shouldn't take more than an hour or two. You don't have to, but, consider replacing the entire wire harness for even better results. Cut a deal with your buddy to help do each of your trailers. Make this a must have upgrade to your trailer this spring and you'll never regret it.

Rainbows for Sanilac & Lexington

From Director Jason Adam-

I read on www.michigan-sportsman.com a thread from a young guy named Jason(not me)who sent a letter to James P. Baker, Fisheries Unit Manager for Southern Lake Huron after hearing there would be no steelhead plants in Lexington/Sanilac this year, and Mr. Baker, in very short order, managed to locate some extra fish and had them planted last week. I personally saw the fish in the harbor last week. I sent a quick note to Mr. Baker just saying "thank you". Here is the response I got. Just thought I'd share it...

Thanks for your note, Jason.

Just so you have the whole story, here's what transpired. Our Lansing people who match the stocking requests with the hatchery inventories got finished with that task and found that they had some extra Eagle Lake domestic rainbow trout in the inventories that were over and above the stocking requests for 2005. In other words, we had a temporary surplus. They sent out a note asking if anybody had a "home" for these extra fish. I have been hearing from pier anglers at Lexington that they were catching a fair number of these domestic rainbows in the late fall, after we closed down our creel census for the year. (We had discontinued stocking the domestics after 2001, as they showed very poor returns during the April - October period when our creel census was operating.) One of these guys sent me a bunch of digital photos of rainbows that he and his buddies caught, and they clearly showed the left pectoral fin-clips that identified these fish as Eagle Lakes. I used this information to justify getting 15,000 Eagle Lakes for Lexington and 15,000 for Port Sanilac, and was successful in doing that.

I need to stress that I can't guarantee that I can get these fish again next year (though I am looking into it.). Salmonid stocking levels in the Great Lakes are capped by international agreements between the states, Ontario, and the tribes. Any variance from established stocking levels must receive approval from the Lake Huron Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Given the state of the forage base in

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Lake Huron at this time, I don't know whether they'll approve any long-term increases in stocking of any species in the near future. (I might add that I had some explaining to do after proposing this plant for 2005.) In any case, we got the fish for this year, and I will probably propose re-establishing this plant at those two ports only to bolster near-shore opportunities in the late fall.

Well, as Paul Harvey says, "that's the rest of the story". Thanks again for your interest.

Yours For Better Fishing...
J. P. Baker
Fisheries Unit Manager
Southern Lake Huron
Fisheries Management Unit
Bay City

Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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).

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 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.

Photo Contest

Detroit Area Steelheaders announces the 2005 Fishing Photo Contest. Photos taken this ice fishing season through the end of boat trolling season are eligible. Prizes include \$100, \$50, and \$20 Gift certificates, and framed prints of the winning photos. Complete rules and information are available on the DAS website, or e-mail photocontest@detroitsteelheaders.org. A picture is worth a 1000 words (and maybe \$100), so keep your camera handy.

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