

Fishin' Tales

Annual Issue



LOOKING BACK AT 2003 – HEADING TOWARD OUR FOURTH DECADE

2003 marked the end of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.'s third decade. As we move ahead toward our fourth decade as a club we take a look back at the past year.

At the January 2003 board meeting I was for better or worse elected to serve one more year as the club President. As always I had a great Board of Directors serving along with me. We set out to continue our club mission of promotion and protecting the sport fisheries in the Great Lakes.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders January 28th meeting featured Mr. David Jude, University of Michigan Research Scientist, Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences as our guest speaker. David put on a fine demonstration, speaking on topics such as the invasive species now found in the Great Lakes and other related topics. We also continued with our monthly series of 'how-to' seminars designed to help novice and expert fishermen and fisherwomen hone their skills to

help land that one fish of a lifetime.

As January gives way to February the excitement builds within the club. The fishing show season is underway and we get to spread the word about the great fishing and fun this club and its members have enjoyed over the years. But it's not only about fishing! Along with the usual fare at the February meeting; which included a visit and presentation from Don Calhoun who had a great presentation on his many trips to fish British Columbia and the annual visit from our friends from the BWSFA giving a pep-talk of sorts for the upcoming River Crab Tournament, we had our annual Valentine's Dinner Dance and Winter Party. The Dinner Dance is a night of renewing friendships, making new friends, good food and drink, dancing and all out crazy fun. Let me repeat – all out, no holds barred crazy fun.

In March the open water fishing bug is active and biting hard. Plans are being made to bring the boat home to ready it for the first open water trip of the year. But for many of us there's still one more event that takes precedence over that. In its sixth year in 2004 is our very popular Sportsmen's Game Dinner. In the proven hands of Steve Hamilton, Tom Moores and the Game Dinner committee this event has become a huge success year after year and we expect the same for 2004. The March 10, 2003 event was again a sell-out and those who attended had the usual great time. The menu was excellent, with various wild game selections available. The raffles were top

Annual 2004
Special Issue

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Inside this Issue

- 1** Our Third Decade
- 2** Final Standings 2003
- 4** Trolling Season in Review
- 6** 2004 Schedule
2004 DAS Directors
Crews Hot Line

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

2003 Standings		<u>Best 6</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>Harbor</u>	<u>Lud'ton</u>						
<u>BOAT</u>	<u>SKIPPER</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>Crab</u>	<u>Joe</u>	<u>Haven</u>	<u>Oscoda</u>	<u>Beach</u>	<u>Ladies</u>	<u>Ludington</u>	<u>Manistee</u>	<u>Sanilac</u>	
1	Free Bird	Bill Dunk	15	2	8	2	5	1	3	5	19	2
2	Crusader	Mike Vigus	25	17	1	20	4	16	8	2	9	1
3	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	27	50	2	10	7	8	12	1	5	4
4	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	27	5	75	3	11	75	1	6	1	50
5	In-Seine	Mark Bevans	34	75	3	8	2	12	16	12	2	7
6	Tip-n-Dipsey	Dean Meyers	37	10	5	1	12	5	6	75	75	10
7	Capt'n Hook	Doug Karakas	45	18	15	4	3	10	5	75	8	50
8	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	56	50	12	5	75	9	4	16	10	50
9	Brat –The Brat	Ron Maschke	59	14	13	11	75	3	50	9	18	9
10	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	59	11	10	17	75	75	9	8	4	75
11	Mary K	Ken Kuhar	124	50	9	19	75	75	15	17	14	50
12	Aquarius II	Chris Nytko	124	75	7	75	1	17	13	11	75	75
13	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	126	50	75	14	14	14	50	10	24	50
14	Dredge	Ed Hill	162	75	75	18	9	13	75	50	22	50
15	Loki-One	Dave Roehr	167	1	11	15	15	75	75	75	75	50
16	Tight Lines	Chris Miller	168	75	75	75	10	18	50	7	75	8
17	Lil' Scratch	Dick Shirk	184	4	75	12	75	11	7	75	75	75
18	Tyger	Ty Voigt	185	75	75	16	8	15	75	75	21	50
19	Just Once	Bill Nutting	193	50	14	9	75	20	75	75	50	50
20	Reel Screamer	Fred McIntyre	241	75	75	75	75	7	75	75	3	6
21	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguza	246	3	75	75	75	75	75	75	13	5
22	Happy Hooker	Chris Bronner	252	75	75	75	13	21	50	18	75	75
23	Empty Box	Robert Parker	263	75	75	21	75	4	75	13	75	75
24	Pisces	Bob Mendicki	266	75	75	75	75	6	75	19	16	75
25	Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	276	75	75	7	75	19	75	50	75	50
26	Reel Alure	Bill Stanley	288	75	75	75	75	75	10	3	75	50
27	Steelie Too	Bill Hoffman Greg	295	50	75	75	75	75	75	14	6	75
28	Nauti Bouy	Zaccardelli	298	50	75	75	75	75	50	50	23	50
29	Terminator	Skip Berry	308	75	75	6	75	2	75	75	75	75
30	The Office Tomorrow's Dream	Duane Dean	314	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	11	3
31	Dream	Mark Stosiak	319	6	75	13	75	75	75	75	75	75
32	Capius	Mike Lehto	322	75	75	75	75	75	75	15	7	75
33	Happy Bare	Don Anton	332	75	75	75	75	75	75	20	12	75
34	SS Guppy	Dwayne Welder	336	75	75	75	75	50	11	75	75	50
35	Slapshot	Doug Batty Joe	356	75	75	75	6	75	75	75	75	50
36	My Treasure	Golaszewski	358	8	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75
37	Voyageur	Dick Jackson	367	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	17	50
38	Destiny	Mark Williams Tim	375	50	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75
39	Journey	Graskiewicz	377	75	75	75	75	75	2	75	75	75
40	Reel Love	Scott McFarren Michael	379	75	75	75	75	75	75	4	75	75
41	Hammer Time	Keating	379	75	4	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
42	Second Wind	John Milborne	381	75	6	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
43		Bill Macomb Danny	382	7	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
44	Atlantdis	Colombe	384	9	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
45	Crews Inn	Lou Bacsikin	388	13	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
46	Main Squeeze	Walt Pohorily	389	75	75	75	75	75	14	75	75	75
47	Alices Angler	Les Jump	390	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	15	75

drawer all the way with many hunting, fishing and outdoor items being won. Many thanks go to those who sold tickets, bought tickets and to those companies and individuals who donated items for the raffles. Without these we wouldn't be able to say this event was a huge success. Later in the month our March meeting included the annual swap meet, a great time to find or to sell that fishing equipment. Our guest speaker was none other than Jeff Bruanschidle, Fisheries Biologist with the MDNR, who did a fantastic job with his demonstration. Many thanks go to Jeff and all of our monthly guest speakers who share information that helps make better fishermen and bfisherwomen of all of us.

Ahhh, April; when a young man's thoughts turn to F-I-S-H-I-N-G! (You thought I was going to say love maybe? W-R-O-N-G!). It's time to make sure all the re-rigging, hook sharpening and boat cleaning is put to good use. Our first official tournament of the season is the annual River Crab Tournament put on by the BWSFA and the Muer Restaurants to benefit the Blue Water Clinic. Our club has participated in this tournament for many years. In 2003 we again fell a few pounds short of besting the BWSFA for top club honors but we upheld the spirit of camaraderie and all had a very good time.

With May we traveled early on to the port of St. Joseph to take a try at the early spring fishery in southern Lake Michigan. This is always a popular port for the DAS and the turnout is very good. This year Mike Vigus and his Crusader crew took top honors at this port even though the fish were still not found in the usual numbers, perhaps because the waters were still unusually cold for this time of year. The same held true later in the month

with our trek to Grand Haven where Dean Meyers and the Trippin' Dipseys crew did well. Our May meeting featured Willis Kerridge of Thunder Duck Charters sharing his wealth of knowledge on fishing the south end of Lake Michigan. Yours truly missed this one and a few more to come. Our Vice President Mark Bevans took the helm for me as I underwent surgery in May that put me out of commission for a few months. Mark did a fantastic job in my absence. Thanks Mark, I owe you many thanks. Your willingness to step in meant a great deal to me. Job well done!

With every June comes our annual Special People Fishing Tournament where our club Skippers take a group of developmentally disabled kids and adults out on to Lake Erie for a fun day of fishing. These kids look forward to this event almost as much as they do Christmas. I can't begin to put in to words the joy that these kids get every year. And the same holds true for our Skippers and their crews! Many thanks go out once again to Doug and Mary Karakas and the many that helped them make this a great day all around. I'm sure Doug will have an article here and will thank everyone by name. Pat and I were able to attend and it was my first real venture out post-op and I must say it did me wonders to be among all the great participants and fellow DAS members. We really enjoyed our day. Finally, I'd like to say a big thanks to Marshall Gill and all the staff at Toledo Beach Marina for their many years of help and hospitality that makes this event possible. I personally look forward to using the TBM facilities in the years ahead when I'm fishing Lake Erie.

In July we tried something a little different by holding a public money tournament – The first annual Detroit Area Steelheaders,

Inc. Port Austin Big Fish Quest. Tournament Director Mike Vigus with help from a number of Directors and members couldn't have guessed that this would be the success it turned out to be. The fishing wasn't up to par for the usual Port Austin catch for this time of year but still, DAS member Paul Schonrade took top honors with a Laker of over 17 pounds taking home the top prize. In the end the great participation let us pay out the top 15 spots and everyone (for the most part) went home happy. This year we'll do it again on the weekend of July 17th and 18th 2004. This event is open to all so see our web site for details on how you can join in this year. I've made my plans to have the 'Steelie Ed' out there in 2004.



Figure 1-Paul Schonrade

August for the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. means big fish in busy ports. We made the trip to Ludington twice again in 2003, first for our annual Ladies Day tournament and picnic and then a week later so the guys could have a turn at those screaming reels. With anticipation among the crews for the pig roast and a great deal of good food the Ladies headed out to show us guys how it's done. The Ladies who ran Blaise Pewinski's Sea Hag reeled em' in and won top honors here. On the return trip a week later the crew of the Sloppy Joe helped Joe Von Grabe take top honors at this tournament. To end the month it was off to Manistee, another of our favorite fishing destinations, to try to haul in one of the big fish this port is known

for. I had the pleasure of returning to the big water (thanks Dr. Genaw!) joining Dick 'Richard Dancing Wolf' Jackson, his wife Marie and Son Stephen on the Voyageur. We even managed to catch a few fish to place 17th. The Sea Hag crew did it again on the west coast with a very impressive catch in Manistee.

In September we closed out the boat tournament season with a trip to Port Sanilac. This was, as far as the number of fish caught was concerned, our most disappointing outing of 2003. Mike Vigus on the Crusader managed to find enough weight to garner the points for another first place finish.

With the end of boat trolling season the club 'River Rats' made their plans for River, Surf and Pier fishing through the rest of the year.

At the October meeting we had a 'Tuesday Night at the Movies, night showing a Charlie White film on fishing tactics used on the west coast. It had the undivided attention of those in attendance who took some great ideas from it for future fishing outings. We also held a 'how-to' outing in October with a Pier and Surf demonstration in Grand Haven. This was well attended and a few new future River Rats were introduced to the fun of fall and winter Steelhead fishing.

With November the club participated in the long standing Manistee 3-way river tournament against other Steelheader clubs. At the November meeting our own Bob Mitchell gave a talk on information on invasive species he obtained during his attendance at the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council annual meeting. In addition to our monthly raffle giveaways we added some seasonal Turkeys and gave away

a few birds to same. Okay gang, only kidding!

In December we closed out the year with a few River, Surf and Pier tournaments including the Frankfort, Michigan tournament. Frankfort is even more special during the holiday season and I'm sure more than one Christmas present under the tree of a DAS member came from one of the fine shops in Frankfort. As always our old friend Salmon Claus came to visit all the little fisher-boys and fisher-girls at our annual December Christmas meeting and left them some nice surprises to boot. Ho-Ho Fish-On Ho. We also gave out the annual awards for top skipper of the year, big fish awards and other special recognition to many of our members. Congratulations to Ron Niemasz and Erin Ryan (Ron's significant other) for their Member of the Year award. And also to Director of the year Bob Mitchell who stepped up numerous times to help pull this Presidents backside out of the fire. Thanks Bob!

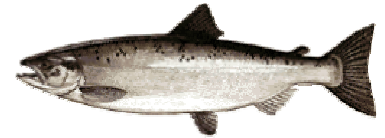
In 2003 this club also upheld its principal of protecting the great lakes fisheries through donations we've made. From our donation to help maintain the Port Sanilac fish cleaning station, Michigan Charter Boat Association Scholarship fund, The Southwest Steelheaders to maintain and repair their net pens and a nice donation to the Manistee Sport Fishing Association to help purchase a new backup generator for the Orsini Hatchery Project. These are but a few ways that the Detroit Area Steelheaders donate to help insure the future of our sport fishery for years to come.

There's a great deal I didn't include here and many individuals who I haven't mentioned. My sincere apologies to all. Most of all, I want to say Thank You to the members of this fine club who gave me the

opportunity to serve as its President for the last two years. It has been an honor to represent the finest bunch of sportsmen and sportswomen I've ever known.

Keep those hooks sharp in 2004!

Ed Wilczek
President 2002-2004



D.A.S. Trolling Season Year in Review 2003

Well ladies and gents, the D.A.S. 2003 trolling season was here and gone in a flash! This in my opinion was too fast but within this great lake state of ours it was time well spent and time that produced many lasting friendships and memories. If I had to sum up the season with one word, I guess it would be "Fantastic".

Our long awaited season came upon us in the month of April which brought on the Annual River Crab/Salmon Stakes. A great turn out was expected and thoughts prevailed. As a club we had 41 boats entered in the tournament and even with the tournament rules revised for this years event the club still didn't bring home any trophy's or monies, but a great time was had by all. Capt. Dave Roehr of Loki-One took home first place honors for the club.

One week later in May, the D.A.S. crew trucked over to the west side of the state and visited Lake Michigan and the port of St. Joe/ Benton Harbor. This year's

club catch was up from 2002's 80 total fish to 2003's 118 total fish from the 16 boats entered. The day had proven to be as usual one of the best of the year. Capt. Mike Vigus and crew of the Crusader took the first place trophy with points totaling 130.00 and Capt. Dean Meyers of Trip-n-Dipsy, picking up the heaviest fish of the day which weighed in at 19.11 lbs. A great fish for any time of the year and an exceptional fish for this early in the spring.

Next stop was back over to Lake Michigan to the port of Grand Haven. The year was shaping up in fine form and from the attendance for this tournament it was sure to be a good one. The Club brought in a whopping 174 fish to the scales and Capt. Dean Meyers took the win from this two day total weight. Capt. Bill Dunk took the big fish title both days for this weekend with King Salmon weighing 18.05 lbs the first day and a 16.15 lbs Chinook on day two.

On June 7th, 2003 the D.A.S. tournament trail rolled into Oscoda on the shores of Lake Huron. Aside from less than average reports, our guys brought home quite a few nice fish catches with Lake Trout being the top catch of the day. 144 fish brought to the scales with 87 of them being lake trout. Our 2002 Skipper of the year Capt. Chris Nytko of the Aquarius II ascended on the top spot with points totaling 99.02. Big fish pool winner was Crusader with Capt. Mike Vigus and crew bringing in a gorgeous King weighing 16.08 lbs.

After a few weeks off, the trollers of the D.A.S. showed up in Lake Huron's thumb area at the port of Harbor Beach. 94 total fish were delivered to the scales by the club fishermen, with Capt. Bill Dunk of Freebird taking

home both the win and big fish prize with a trophy Brown Trout weighing 14.15 lbs. An extraordinary fish in any great lakes fisherman's standards.

Now its time for the ladies! Our annual ladies day tournament was held this year on Lake Michigan's port of Ludington. Our lady fisherman had a great time on the water with sun and fun to be had by all. The ladies brought in some fine catches this day with Capt. Blaise Pewinski's lady crew aboard the Sea Hag taking home the trophies. The big fish of the day was caught by Jennifer Meyers aboard Trip-n-Dipsy which was the biggest fish of the year thus far and it weighed in at 22.90 lbs. Way to go Jen!!!!

It is July 9th now and it was the men's turn and back to Ludington they flocked for their turn at some of the best fishing our fishery has to offer. 129 total fish weighed with 81 of those being Chinook! Squealing reel drags, busted line and tall tails prevailed! The top finisher this day was Capt. Joe VonGrabe of the Sloppy Joe boat, with 117.85 points to take his top spot with Capt. Bill Hoffman of Steelie, boating the big fish of the day weighing 19.50 lbs.

As the year progress's the fishing in the Great Lakes turns from great to unbelievable. Manistee is one of the best fisheries on the planet this time of year and the catches in this haven prove to be spectacular. With the total club catch weight just shy of 1 ½ tons (2942 lbs.), with 25 boats entered; needless to say the fishing was unbelievable. Once again for the second time this season, Capt. Blaise Pewinski of the Sea Hag prevailed with a catch totaling 152.50 lbs and a point total of 192.50. The heaviest fish of the year was weighed at this event and Capt.

Duane Dean and crew aboard The Office took home the prize with a King Salmon (Chinook) weighing 26.30 lbs. Hope that fish looks good on your wall Duane!

Seasons end brought us back close to home and in the harbor of Port Sanilac. 25 D.A.S. trollers showed up to finish out the year with a bang. Although the fish didn't cooperate as much as many would of liked to of seen, a good time was had by all. Out of 25 boats entered in the tournament only 10 boats caught fish, leaving the other fishermen with empty creoles. Despite the tough conditions, Capt. Mike Vigus and crew of the Crusader found six nice fish to take the top honor for the second time this year with a total weight and points totaling 64.60 lbs. The big fish trophy for this event weighed 17.10 lbs and was taken by Capt. Joe VonGrabe and crew of the Sloppy Joe.

Looking back this season to me was "Fantastic". Everyone I have had the opportunity to reflect upon the season with has nothing bad to say about the fishing and undoubtedly nothing negative to say about our fine organization. Our 2003 Skipper of the Year trophy was taken home by Capt. Bill Dunk of Freebird! Congrat's to the Freebird crew from all of us at the D.A.S. In closing, everlasting memories, friendships and fishing was had by all and hope to see everyone next year and hoping a few newcomers will grace our club and enjoy or Great Lakes Fishery along with all of our membership of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Tight Lines to all, Mike Vigus-Crusader

2003 D.A.S. Trolling Director



2004 Boat Trolling Schedule

Participate in our boat trolling tournaments in 2004. It is the best way to learn to be a consistent fisherman on the Great Lakes. Compete for the annual Skipper of the Year or the Rookie of the Year.

Our 2004 Schedule:

Lexington Club Tournament
4-24-2004
Port Captain: Mark Bevans

St. Joe Club Tournament
5-01- 2004
Port Captain: Joe VonGrabe

Grand Haven (2-Day) Club Tournament
5-22 & 5-23-2004
Port Captain: Doug Karakas

Port Austin (Team Doubles) Club Tournament
6-05-2004
Port Captain: Blaze Pewinski

Special People (Toledo Beach Marina, Monroe)

Special People Tournament
6-12-2004
Port Captain: Doug Karakas

Frankfort Club Tournament
6-26-2004
Port Captains: Bob Jones

Port Austin (DAS Big Fish Quest)Public Money Tournament
7-16 & 7-18-2004
Fishermen's Meeting
7-16-2004
Director: Mike Vigus

Ludington (Ladies Day) Club Tournament
8-07-2004
Port Captain: Mike Vigus/Bill Dunk

Ludington Club Tournament
8-14-2004
Port Captain: Bob Feisel

Manistee Club Tournament
8- 28-2004
Port Captain: Bob Paradise

Harbor Beach Club Tournament
9-11-2004
Port Captain: Chris Nytko



The Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Directors

President: Mark Bevans
Vice President: Mike Vigus
Treasurer: Steve Hamilton
Secretary: Linda Banbury

Director: Bob Mitchell
Director: Dwayne Welder

Director: Ed Wilczek
Director: Bill Dunk
Director: Doug Karakas
Director: Mary Karakas
Director: Tom Moores
Director: Bill Nutting
Director: Chris Nytko
Director: Ty Voigt
Director: Jason Adam
Director: Bill Stanley
Director: Chris Miller

A few of the committee heads are:

Trolling Director: Mike Vigus
News Letter: Bob Mitchell
Shows: Bill Nutting
Raffles: Ty Voigt
Special People outing: Doug Karakas
Wild Game Dinner: Steve Hamilton
Dinner Dance: Mary Karakas
Speakers & Education: Mark Bevans
Cooler of Cheer: Chris Nytko
Crews Board: Jason Adam
Trophies: Chris Miller
Web Page: Ed Wilczek
Hats & Tee Shirts: Bill Stanley
Membership: Tom Moores

Boat US

Don't forget to renew your Boat US membership!!!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders is an affiliated club. As such, you get a significant saving on your Boat US dues.

Let them know you are a member and give them the club's code when you sign up. The number is: **GA 82750B**

CREWS HOT LINE

Need a crew? Are you looking for crew members to fish with you in the Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments?

Or, do you want to crew? Would you like to fish in a tournament and don't have a boat.

Call the **CREWS HOT LINE** to find Skippers seeking crew members or crew members looking for a boat. For 2004 the contact is Jason Adam at 248-755-3345

TIPS FOR BETTER FISH PICTURES

Many great fish have been caught, but far fewer great pictures of those fish are ever taken. The Detroit Area Steelheaders fine newsletter, "Fishin' Tales", is always seeking photos from our members. Unfortunately, not many good photos are given to our Editor, Bob Mitchell. Here's a few tips for taking better fish pictures.

First, you must always take a camera. It's too late to take pictures back at the car. Fish look much better immediately after the catch. Action pictures on the boat, river, surf or pier are more interesting than snapshots of stringers of dead fish at the parking lot.

Lighting is critical and usually the biggest problem. Always use the flash. It might not seem to make sense to do so on a bright sunny day, but it will make your subject really stand out. It will also eliminate the shadow on faces from the caps we all wear. Try a picture with the flash and another without to compare. You'll see a big difference. Make sure the sun is striking the subject from behind the photographer or from a slight angle. Never shoot towards the sun. Get the subject to remove their sunglasses.

Avoid background clutter. After positioning the subject for the proper light, look through the viewfinder at the background. Remove any

distracting objects, close any boat doors, hatches, etc. Change the angle of the shot if needed to avoid unwanted distractions from the background.

Think about the composition of the shot. This is the way you arrange the subjects within the picture. Do you want a closeup? (Usually it's best to be within six feet.) Or do you want the subject to be just part of the scene? The rule of thirds is a good one to remember. Do not fall into the rut of always centering the subject. Mentally divide the picture into thirds vertically and horizontally. Where the lines intersect are usually the best places to locate your subject in the picture.

Finally, experiment and have fun. Try staging some netting or releasing photos. The action passes, but great photos help us relive those great fish long into the future.

Steve Hamilton



The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council Who Are We

"We" are a confederation of organizations and individuals who have banded together in the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a nonprofit advocacy organization whose members are concerned about the present and future of sport fishing and its economic benefits in the Great Lakes ,

adjoining waters and in protecting and enhancing the regional sport fishery and its wetlands, habitat and environment.

Established in 1972, the Council has a combined membership of over 325,000 family anglers in all eight Great Lakes states and Canada. It's run by its member clubs for its members. Meetings are held in various ports on the Great Lakes, hosted by a local Council member club, and timely seminars, workshops and conferences are held on current issues.

In addition to general Council business, area reports are presented by delegates from member-clubs in various states. Much of the meeting, however, is devoted to reports by representatives--biologists, limnologists, DNR and federal agencies and organizations. These Council briefings cover a wide range of topics such as exotics; state and federal fish stocking programs; new or revised fishing regulations; outlooks for the forage base and sport fishery; environmental problems and initiatives; illegal trafficking in gamefish; scientific research and what it mean to anglers; commercial or sport fishing abuses; proposed legislation; economic impacts; tourism enhancement; and other pertinent subjects so you can inform other of those matters that affect or interest them.

Established in 1972, the Council has a combined membership of over 325,000 family anglers If you share the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council's interest and concern for the Great Lakes region.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. is a non-profit fishing club celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2004. We are dedicated to the protection and promotion of trout, salmon and other fisheries in the Great Lakes Region.



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



Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
126
Sterling
Heights, Mi.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Fishin' Tales

January 2004
Volume XXIX, Issue 1

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Inside this Issue

- 1 January Meeting
Elections
New Members
- 2 Tournament Schedule
- 3 Sportsmen's Dinner
- 4 Check Your Label



January MEETING

The January 27, 2004 Meeting will be held at St. Pius K. of C. (our regular meeting location).

ELECTIONS

At the Christmas meeting elections were held for Directors of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Elected to office were Jason Adams, Chris Miller, Bill Stanley, Dwayne Welder, Ty Voigt and Chris Nytko.

At the January Board of Directors meeting, officers were elected. Your new Detroit Area Steelheaders President is Mark Bevens. Elected VP is Mike Vigus. Your secretary for 2004 is Linda Banbury and the Treasure is Steve Hamilton. Congratulations to all!



NEW MEMBER DRIVE TO START IN JANUARY

The Detroit Area Steelheaders has announced a new membership drive starting in January, with an incentive for any new member to sign up. If your membership has expired prior to December 2002, or you are a brand new member signing up for the first time, you will receive a package valued at approximately \$25.00. This package will include; 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 fee, or a \$150.00 lifetime membership fee. Not only is this incentive a great reason to join the **Detroit Area Steelheaders** for yourself, but also for your family as this is a family membership. Following are some of the reasons why fisherman all over the state, and beyond are joining the **Detroit Area Steelheaders Inc.**

*The **Detroit Area Steelheaders Inc.** provides you with a means of being heard on issues affecting our fisheries.

*You receive 12 monthly issues of "**FISHING TALES**" newsletter, among the finest published anywhere.

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

*Organized events all year long, including boat trolling, river fishing, pier/surf fishing, and ice fishing tournaments, and seminars, held all over the state.

*Social events such as the annual **Dinner Dance**, the 5th annual **Wild Game Sportsman Dinner**, as well as a special Christmas meeting with Salmon Claus for the kids.

*Participation in public service events such as the **Special People Walleye outing**, and the **River Crab Salmon Stakes**, to support worthy causes.

*Donations to M.S.U. research on fisheries, and donations to various sport fishing organizations to support hatcheries, as well as lawyer fees to help protect our fishing rights all over the state. In all more than **\$22,000** has been donated since we came into existence as a sport club.

*This is our **30th year** in existence as a sport fishing club, and we have great guest speakers lined up for upcoming meetings. Some would include, representatives of the Michigan DNR, state fisheries biologist, and charter captains, who would all give us timely information, and share their passions, as well as their special areas of expertise. Also, question and answer periods are held at our monthly meetings, with the top skippers of our fishing tournaments, which are held all over the state.

*Camaraderie with your fellow members at the **Knights of Columbus** hall in Warren. 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 in the evening.

*You can fill out the application for membership that is in the newsletter, and drop it in the mail, to our PO Box, or better yet bring it to one of our monthly meetings, and join in on the fun of great fishing ahead. We will also have a booth at the major fishing shows. Look forward to seeing you at one of the shows, or better yet at one of our monthly meetings. 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

2004 Boat Trolling Schedule

Lexington Club Tournament
4-24-2004
Port Captain: Mark Bevans

St. Joe Club Tournament
5-01- 2004
Port Captain: Joe VonGrabe

Grand Haven (2-Day) Club Tournament
5-22 & 5-23-2004
Port Captain: Doug Karakas

Port Austin (Team Doubles) Club Tournament
6-05-2004
Port Captain: Blaze Pewinski

Special People (Toledo Beach Marina, Monroe) Special People Tournament
6-12-2004
Port Captain: Doug Karakas

Frankfort Club Tournament
6-26-2004
Port Captains: Bob Jones

Port Austin (DAS Big Fish Quest)Public Money Tournament
7-16 & 7-18-2004
Fishermen's Meeting
7-16-2004
Director: Mike Vigus

Ludington (Ladies Day) Club Tournament
8-07-2004
Port Captain: Mike Vigus/Bill Dunk

Ludington Club Tournament
8-14-2004
Port Captain: Bob Feisel

Manistee Club Tournament
8- 28-2004
Port Captain: Bob Paradise

Harbor Beach Club Tournament
9-11-2004
Port Captain: Chris Nytko

Robert Lewis

We are sad to report that long time friend Bob Lewis passed away in January. While many of you may not have met Bob, he is the person responsible for typesetting and printing of our Annual Issue and our summer issues of Fishin' Tales.

This is the reason that your Annual has been delayed. Bob was a long time friend and will be missed by many of us. His dedication and contributions to the Club are many.

Fifth Annual Sportsmen's Dinner

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will be hosting our fifth Sportsmen's Dinner on Saturday, March 6, 2004. We will be at the same location as last year's highly acclaimed

dinner, at Salt River Golf Club Banquette Center at 33633, 23-Mile Road, New Baltimore; 2.4 miles east of I-94 (Exit #243). This finely decorated hall has large windows providing a wonderful view of the golf course. The doors will open at 5 PM and the dinner begins promptly at 6PM.

This will be a traditional sportsmen's' dinner with a game menu, an impressive display of taxidermy and raffles. We are fortunate to have the same caterer who will prepare five game entrees such as pheasant, caribou, buffalo, etc. We will have the same great raffles as last year. MICHI-GUN will again be present providing choices for our biggest winners. We expect to have upwards of 90 raffle prizes and hope to beat last year's wildly successful fundraiser.

We expect to sell out the 325 Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255

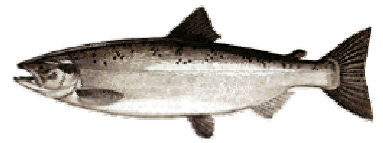
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

available seats. DO NOT BE LEFT OUT! Tickets are the same price as last year, \$35 each for the dinner including pop and beer. A cash bar is available for other drinks. Dining tables seat ten and may be reserved with advance payment. We have non-smoking and smoking areas. Tickets will be available at the January 27th membership meeting and from any Director. Members please help your club's biggest fundraiser by selling some tickets, obtaining needed raffle donations and by attending and having a great time.

For more information, contact Steve Hamilton, Dinner Chairman at (313) 881-3871 or Tom Moores at (248) 634-5789

Check Your Label



Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
126
Sterling
Heights, Mi.

Financial Summary for 2003

Following is a brief summary of the Detroit Area Steelheaders financial information for 2003. Any questions should be directed to Steve Hamilton our Treasure.

Revenue

Game Dinner	\$27473
Big Fish Quest	9,094
Raffles	6,367
Tournaments	4,456
Dues	4,025
Dinner Dance	1,946
Merch. Sales	844
TOTAL	\$54,205

Expense

Game Dinner	\$16,824
Big Fish Quest	7,349
Donations/ misc.	4,515
Membership	4,038
Tourn/Trophies	3,116
Dinner Dance	2,408
Raffles	1,525
Insurance	1,189
Director meetings	981
Merchandise	784
Newsletter*	364
TOTAL	\$43,093

Cash Flow \$11,111

*excludes Annual (\$3,800)

Shows for 2004

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will have a display at two shows in 2004. The first show will be at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Mt Clemens on February 20 -22. The second show will be Outdoorama in Novi at the Exhibition Hall. MUCC has shortened this show for 2004 and the dates will be February 25 - 29.

Anyone who can help out manning the display should contact Bill Nutting at 586-772-5702 or see any Director at the meeting.

Detroit Area Steelheaders Donate to Hatchery Project

The Detroit Area Steelheaders have again shown that they support the fishery in many ways.

The Board of Directors approved a \$2500 donation to the Orsini Hatchery. This hatchery is managed by the Manistee County Sport fishing Association.

The hatchery has been in need of a backup generator to insure the survival of fingerlings when there is a power shortage.

Over the years your club has donated well in excess of \$20,000 to various projects.

New Research Blows Away Myths

New research conducted by the USFWS station near Rogers City is blowing away many of the myths and concepts held by salmon fisherman over the years.

While primarily know for their sea lamprey studies, the research that is attracting all the attention is a new study using implanted micro-devices to track the depth and temperature of salmon and lake trout.

The Researchers first caught salmon North of Rogers City, surgically implanted them with the micro-devices, put two tags with 800#s on them and released the fish.

The first surprise was that the 4 of 5 fish subsequently captured again by fisherman were caught in rivers in Georgian Bay; not

Swan Bay. Another was caught in Wisconsin.

However the most surprising findings were relative to the tracking of the depth and the temperature of water that these fish had been in.

While I do not yet have the official results my observations of the raw data were startling.

One of the questions we have all had was "Where are the kings in the Spring?" Many of us have speculated that they were in the Southern part of the lake and hadn't migrated North.

The data showed that kings can winter in deep water. Several fish recorded depths of 400 to 500 feet down over the winter months.

May showed a sharp rise to water less than 100 feet. So maybe those fish were at your port but you were fishing about 400 feet too shallow?

Another sample of data showed that even during the summer, kings can make short term migrations to very deep water. Some seemed to be in less than 100 and then made a daily migration to depths of 200 to 250 feet of water; but not every day! So maybe that mark on your graph at 200 feet is a king!

One of the more interesting findings was of five fish that were at about 54 degree water at 5 am. Some went deeper as the sun came up and others went shallower. The amazing thing was they were in order of size with the deepest fish being the largest. Real? Of just "the role of the dice?" Stay tuned. Bob Mitchell - El-Lin