

Fishin' Tales

February 2004
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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

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



Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday February 24, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)-Warren, Michigan. Our meetings are always open to the public.

Our February Guest Speakers will be Dan Keifer and Heather Van DenBerg, Clinton River Watershed Council, who will be in to talk about the Clinton River and the fishery conservation project for trout that the Clinton River Watershed Council is doing in partnership with Trout Unlimited, the DNR Fisheries Division, and the City of Auburn Hills. Also, Jeff Counts; Publisher and Kurt Kuban, Editor of the 'MICHIGAN STREAMSIDE JOURNAL' will touch upon outdoor pursuits in Michigan, its natural heritage, the conservation of its natural resources and other topics of interest. Join us for an informative and fun evening. Along with our Speakers we'll have our monthly 'how-to' segment along with club tournament information, raffles and more. Up to date club information can be found on the DAS web site at www.detroitsteelheaders.org.

NEW MEMBERS

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.

*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 are 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

March 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.

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). The doors will open at 5 PM and the dinner begins promptly at 6PM.

At press time we understand that the dinner is once again sold out. We do, however, still have time to accept donations from businesses and others interested in supporting our efforts.

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



Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? 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.

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



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| Non-Profit Org. US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 126 Sterling Heights, Mi. |
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Shows for 2004

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will have a display at 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.

FISH ON!

When you hit a nice fish, mark the spot and go back. Often times the action takes place in a relatively small area. Don't keep going and miss the bite.

When you have a release, your second action should be to try to get another similar lure to the same depth. A hooked fish will excite others with him often triggering a double if there is a second lure. One crewmember grabs the rod and another resets another downrigger to the depth.

Troll in an "S" pattern – you'll be going faster on the outside rods and slower inside. Watch to see which the fish prefer and adjust your speed.

Speed – In general fish as fast as you can and still catch fish. At 2.6 mph you will put your lures in front of 30% more fish than at 2mph. After 6 hours a boat going 2.5 will have fished 3 additional miles of water (15 Vs 12). The tougher the fishing, the faster you should go to present your lures to more fish.

A key to consistency is to be able to repeat success – If you don't have a line counter, half hitch a rubber band to your dipsey/ lead line so you can repeat the line out after landing a fish.

CHEAP IS FOR CHUMPS

Line – Use a good, brand name line. Strip off 10-20 feet to start the day with fresh line. Run the last 3-5 feet between your fingers to feel for nicks every time before resetting after catching a fish. Use a Trilene knot for strength. If you feel 'anything', cut it off & change it. The biggest king of the day will always hit the rod you thought was "good enough".

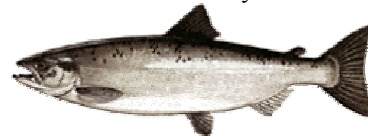
Use good terminal tackle – Use Sampo swivels. Don't lose a \$12 hootchie combo because you had a 25-cent swivel.

Sharpen your hooks. It's the single easiest way to improve your percent landed and the most ignored. See Mark's article for how to sharpen. Go 8 for 10 not 5 for 10.

Lures – Use quality lures that you have confidence in. Run the same brand at the best (tested) speed. Mix and match and some won't be running right.

Be versatile – learn to use Dipseys/ Lead Dropper weights, wire line, cow bells, dodgers, and hootchies. Anyone, who says, "I never run..." will also have times when they don't catch.

Fish tournaments – It's the single best way to learn to fish. Go out & do your thing. Then have a 'dog and talk to the skippers who were more successful. Don't just ask what they did. Ask "WHY" they did that.



EFFICIENCY

A pole out of the water will not catch fish. Pick out the lure you want and then pull the rod.

It's better to run fewer lines right than more wrong. If the wind is blowing hard, fish with the wind, Then pick up and run back rather than trying to troll into the wind.

Try to net behind the downrigger wires. Every time you bring a fish in-between the wires you risk him making a last gasp dash & cutting you off.

Short leads give more maneuverability. Long leads and lead lines limit your ability to go where you need to go. The more traffic the more important. And if you start catching fish traffic will show up.

Add-a-lines –use no more than 3 footers. The bow in the line will get it back from the boat. Big Swivel at one end and small at the other. The really big swivel will be easier to undo when there is a big fish on and everyone is pumped. Hold in place with a rubber band half hitched to the main line.

Keep a log - Don't trust your memory. Two hours ago, Yesterday, Last year.

Test lures by running a lure 4 feet back and 2 feet down so you can see how it runs at different speeds. Record the speeds in your log.

Test Dipseys– Know what depth Dipseys or lead balls run at Vs various speeds and leads. Move into a shallow sandy area 50 to 75 feet deep. Let line out until they start bumping the bottom. Enter the speed and depth in your logbook.

