

# Fishin' Tales

April 2004  
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Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1255  
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## Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday April 27, 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.

The scheduled speaker for the April meeting is Mark Stephen from Project Fish at MSU. This is a project dedicated to teaching young people how to fish and getting them exposure to the outdoors.

## A Message from the President

Trolling season is upon us again and I'm sure everyone is like me, busy working on your boats and gear. While getting your boats ready please remember to check all your safety gear, flares, life jackets, throw device, radio, etc. Hook your trailer to your truck and check the lights. If you have surge brakes on your trailer check the brake fluid levels. Look at the trailer tires, pay attention to the inside of the tread because this is where the tire wears the fastest.

We all travel a lot and having a trailer break down can ruin a trip. I'm looking forward to another safe trolling season.

**Most of you know Mike Vigus changed the trolling schedule. BWSF had cancelled the River Crab due to lost of sponsor and benefactor. At the last minute they were able to put together a new sponsor and benefactor. After discussing it with Mike Vigus we decided to stay true to tradition and participate in the Salmon Stakes. I'm sorry if this caused any confusion but the consensus was the majority of the trollers wanted to fish the Salmon Stakes. Hopefully we can win some money not only for ourselves but for the club too.**

Has everyone checked out our club jackets? Bill Stanley did a great job picking out a nice looking jacket. I understand he is working on having club flags (burgees) made. I'm sure they will be as nice looking as our jackets.

We are not to far from two of our bigger trolling events. First we have the Special Peoples Outing, followed by the Big Fish Quest. Both of these are large events that take a lot of work to organize and run. I'm sure Doug Karakas (Special People) and Mike Vigus (Big Fish Quest) would appreciate your help. This is our club and to keep it strong and successful it depends on everyone's participation. You don't have to be a big lake troller to support these events. Shore help is a big part of these events. I know Mike and Doug both need



help with these projects, so don't be shy stand up volunteer to support your club.

Mark Bevans  
Club President

## 2004 SPORTSMENS' DINNER - Fun & Success

By Steve Hamilton

The Detroit Area Steelheaders 2004 Sportsmens' Dinner on Saturday, March 6, was a lot of fun with many happy prize winners and everyone raving about the best game cooking ever! It's hard to believe the caterer outdid himself again! We sold out again with 330 people attending, and it was the fourth year in a row that we set a new record for club fundraising. Thanks to those who worked during the event even though they paid to attend; Mark Bevans, Mike Vigus, Doug Karakas, Bill Stanley, Bob Mitchell, Tom Moores, Chris Miller, Dwayne Welder, Chris Nytko, Linda & Ray Banbury, and Bill Nutting. Thanks also to those who helped with the very difficult job of getting donations. We do need some more help in this area by you, the members, next year.

### SURFACE TEMPS

As most of you know, Coastwatch has been down since last fall due to a server failure coupled with a need to re-construct the program due to a change in file protocol at NOAA.

As of today, April 7, 2004, the totally re-written program is being posted again at the same old address. While the program has been designed to appear more or less exactly the same as the old , you will notice some changes,

including a better shoreline definition, and a page print option at the top right.

We expect there will be some glitches and problems which we hope to identify and correct over the next few weeks. Some additional improvements may be implemented as we gain experience with the new program.



### 2004 Boat Trolling Schedule

**Lexington- Salmon Stakes 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

**ST Joe Tournament**  
The second stop on the 2004 tournament trail has the Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing out of the port of St. Joseph / Benton Harbor on May 1st. This has traditionally been a Coho fishery but the past few years we've had some excellent catches of large kings. Lake trout season starts May 1st, so they'll also be available. The creel limit is three per person with a minimum size of 20 inches.

The setup is your typical spring fishery with body baits and spoons being the main choices. Also, if you get into the Coho, try a small orange dodger with green fly run off a planer board, half core or high off a rigger. (Cont. Page 4)

## FIND THE FISH

Find a break – A “break” of some kind will concentrate fish. A break can be a temperature change – thermocline or thermal bar – (offshore temp break) drop off, wreck, current, color line (river water), etc. Look for a slick, a sea gull, a reflection, anything that might indicate a break.

Bird feeder – If you watch a bird feeder there are times when there are no birds there, but they always come back.

Find fish and there will likely be others there. When it slacks off – leave but come back from time to time; especially after the other boats leave. Running and gunning rarely pays off.

You will sometimes find baitfish where you won’t find salmon. You will almost never find salmon where you don’t find baitfish.

## WATER SCIENCE

Temperature – 54 degrees is a magic number for water. There are actually three magic numbers where the physical properties of water change- 32 degrees (ice) 212 degrees (steam) and 54 degrees (density). The physical change at 54 degrees leads to thermoclines and also to the Fall turnover in a lake. Find the thermocline and you have a break that is often a clue to baitfish and salmon. They may be above or below it.

### Color

- Spectrum of light – Red/ Orange/ Yellow/ Green/ Blue. Red is visible as red to only about 15 –20 feet deep, then any deeper it looks black. Blue is visible as blue to the greatest depths; maybe 80 feet. The order follows the rainbow spectrum listed above. White (all colors)/ Black (absence of color) work about anywhere.

Real silver plated spoons or dodgers are better at greater depths than chrome because silver reflects more blue light than chrome or nickel.

Glow tape or paint doesn’t care about depth. Often, a little glow out-performs a lot of glow.

## 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. (See – Bird feeder)

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 accordingly.

Speed – In general fish as fast as you can and still catch fish. At 2.6 mhp 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 amount of line let out after landing a fish.

## 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 maneuverability is. And if you start catching fish traffic will show up.

Add-a-lines/ Sliders –use no more than 3 footers. The bow in the line will get it back from the boat. Use a big (75-100 lb test) swivel at one end and small (20-30) at the other. The really big swivel will be easier to undo when there is a big fish on and everyone is pumped. Hold the swivel in place on the main line with a rubber band half hitched to the main line.

Keep a log - Don’t trust your memory - Two hours ago, yesterday, Last year. A log will reveal patterns faster than your memory.

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 trolling speeds and line out.

Move into a shallow sandy area 50 to 75 feet deep. Let line out until the dipsey starts bumping the bottom. Enter the dipsey setting, boat speed and depthfinder readings into your logbook.

Good Luck –El-Lin Charters

(from page 2) We got a big king a couple of years ago with this setup.

The usual hot spots include working the color line from the river mouth and down by the Cook nuclear plant which is about eight miles south of the harbor. Other landmarks include the chalets and the "junk cars" south of the pier heads.

For more information call Port Captain: Joe von Grabe (586) 293-7688 or see him at the meeting.

The Captain's meeting, (5:30 am) and weigh-in will be at the West Basin Marina. There should be plenty of slips available if you come in on Friday.

Joe von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"



### 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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY