

Fishin' Tales

May 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



Celebrating 30 years

Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday May 25, 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 event for the meeting is that Bill Stanley will set up his trolling boat in the parking lot to give members a close up look at what it takes to set up a boat for salmon.

On a separate note, the Board of Directors voted to change "Big Fish" in the tournaments to one winner with all of the money going to first place. That should pay for gas!

A Message from the President

May - Spring is here, no it's not, spring is here, no it's not. What a wet, cold and windy spring it's been so far. In April

I was wearing all my winter clothes getting the boat ready for the Salmon Stakes. Hoping by the time St. Joe tournament arrived it would be warm. Didn't happen. Well maybe by Grand Haven we will finally see some warmer weather.

Mark Stephens from MSU was at our April meeting and talked to us about Project Fish. This is a very good organization helping young people get started into fishing with follow up that hopefully will keep them fishing. I hope to set something up in the future with our club and one of their projects.

In May, Bill Stanley will bring his boat and set it up in the parking lot. He will explain how he runs things and answer any questions. After that the 5 top Captains will talk and take questions from the floor. We may receive a visit from Susan Tabor to bring us up to date on what's happening in Lansing.

As many of you know I was Trolling Director a few years ago. While I was the Director I stopped our shotgun starts at our trolling tournaments. I felt it was a danger we didn't need. This weekend I fished a money tournament in South Haven. They had 135 boats in this tournament. The rules stated that boats had to be no farther than 500 yards from the pier heads until the start. You can imagine the confusion when they started the tournament. I was in a friend's boat. He has a 22 ft.

Winner, similar to a Wellcraft. We were thrown all over the place by the wake from the larger boats.

On Sunday we decided to hang back, let the boats clear out and then head out. While we were waiting a 25 to 26 ft. Thompson motored passed us. When they were about 50 yards in front of us their boat jumped to the Port and then violently to the Starboard. The boat went all the way on its side, enough so the windshield was in the water. It rolled back upright and threw one of the guys overboard. We blocked the man in the water with our boat and stood on the back deck waving our arms to keep the other boats from running him over. He was in the water for about 5 minutes before his buddies got to him with the boat. He was so cold he wasn't able to climb out of the water into the boat. And the three older men in the boat were not strong enough to lift him out. After three tries and he couldn't make it, I was taking my boots off and putting on a life jacket to help him get out of that cold water. On his fourth try with help from his partners he managed to climb over the back of the transom. I was very happy he made it, I wasn't looking forward to jumping in that water. It was a very tense and scary event.

Will I still fish tournaments with shotgun starts? Yes, but I will hang back and wait for the other boats to clear out before I head out. Five minutes later on my start will not make that big of difference in the fish I catch.

Be safe and your fishing experience will be memorable.
Mark Bevans
DAS President

RIVER CRAB

The on again, off again, on again River Crab finally went off on schedule. Twenty five boats fished the tournament for the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

Under the new "big fish" format Doug Batty on Slapshot took first place honors and a \$500 check in the steelhead division.

Here are the unofficial results:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Weight</u>	
<u>Captain</u>		<u>Club</u>
Super Skipper	31.7 lbs	
Dan Fenner		BWSA
Brown	11.6 lbs	
Rob Helzer		BWSA
Coho	2.25 lbs	
Jay Korneffel		BWSA
King	12.6 lbs	
Jeff Parker		BWSA
Steelhead	5.6 lbs	
Douglas Batty		DAS
Lake Trout	2.9 lbs	
John Moldowan		No Club

ST Joe Tournament

The weather outlook didn't look too promising leading up to the weekend of our St. Joseph Tournament. We arrived Friday morning, had breakfast, launched the boat and got a slip at West Basin Marine by 8:00 a.m.

By 8:30, we were setting lines a little north of the Pier Heads in about 45 feet of water. There was a light wind out of the north, the water was calm and the air temp was very mild.

We saw boats all around us netting fish and even saw some doubles being landed. For approximately 45 minutes we couldn't get any bites then a rigger rod

went and we landed a nice king around 12 pounds. We tried kicking up our speed from the normal 2.7 mph to 3.5 mph. It worked. We then proceeded to boat 13 more fish over the next five hours. Ten of the fish were nice kings; all around 11pounds to 12pounds.

Early, the fish came on spoons off the riggers and fixed sliders. Later, they started to hit hoochies off our wire line dipseys.

When boat traffic lightened up around noon, we put out a couple of half cores with a J-plug and a Yozuri. They each took a couple of fish.

We began to develop some electrical problems and when the fog started to roll in around 1:30, we decided we'd better head in. Just as we began to pull lines, three rods went off and we landed three nice kings.

You can really appreciate your GPS and radar when you're in fog and they don't work. With the help of the fog horn at the pier heads, we were able to find our way back.

Friday night a front came through, air temperatures dropped and the winds kicked up; out of the north.

Saturday morning, there was a Small Craft Advisory in effect so the tournament was postponed until 9:00 am. At 9:00 am, conditions hadn't improved so it was decided we'd have our picnic at noon and potentially start the tournament at 2:00 pm. A few boats went out and reported 3 - 5 ft waves, but they were catching fish.



At noon, we enjoyed our normal picnic festivities. It didn't look like the winds were going to subside so it was decided that we'd give it a go the next morning. The forecast for Sunday called for light rain and 1 – 3 footers, so things looked promising.

Sunday morning there were still Small Craft Advisories in effect so the tournament was cancelled. Conditions were fishable early, improved for a few hours and then the winds started to kick up again around 10:00 am. As such, most of the boats did go out on their own and catch some fish.

Some reports of fish in the 13pounds - 15pounds class were reported by some of our Captains.

Although we weren't able to conduct our tournament and didn't get to fish as much as we would have liked, it was nice to see that the kings are alive and well on the Lake Michigan side. "Can't wait to go to Grand Haven."

Joe, Sloppy Joe"

Special People Saturday June 12

Our club has been sponsoring our Special People event now for 21 years.

This event will take place Saturday June 12th. We will need approximately 35 captains from our club volunteering their boats, and time to take approximately 40-50 physically and / or mentally challenged people out on Lake Erie for a day of walleye fishing. Following their exciting time on the water, we then will provide them with a wonderful cookout, entertainment, a very nice bag of various donated goodies,

along with a Polaroid picture with their Captain and crew, a trophy, plus a bag of fresh filets from their catch of the day.

Needless to say, this is a very special day in their lives as well as ours. This affords them an opportunity to participate in the experience of catching and landing a fish that otherwise may never be possible for most of them.

We would like any donations you could make to fill our participants goodie bags. Past donations have been from companies and individuals. We receive merchandise with business names and without such as mugs, Frisbees, balls, pens, pencils, paper, baseball caps, t-shirts, lures, etc. It is different every year. If you would be able to supply us with any donations please call Captain Doug Karakas at 248-545-1181 and let him know what you would be able to get donated. We will also need donations of Polaroid film.

We would encourage all club members with a boat (any size) to participate in this very rewarding day. I have missed only one year and this is the highlight of my fishing season. If you have not participated in the past please talk to me or someone else who has and we will all tell you the same thing - It's a Blast. As in the past I expect that we will have free dockage for the weekend at Toledo Beach Marina.

If you don't have a boat and would like to participate we will also need some help setting up the tent, tables and chairs, cleaning fish, etc and to get things ready for the BBQ.

Please come out on Saturday June 12th and make this day a success for the special person and see how rewarding this is for you.

Captain Doug Karakas
248-545-1181

2004 Boat Trolling Schedule

**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**

FOR Sale:

1988 Thompson 24 ft. Hardtop w/ tandem trailer. Excellent condition. Loaded for salmon and walleye fishing. Includes all fishing equip. and tackle. Will send list upon request.
Reduced to \$21,000
Dick - Lil" Scratch
Days (586) 777-8900
Eve. (586) 749-9493

Port Austin June 5

At Port Austin, many boats will fish the reef off Grindstone City about 6 miles East of the lighthouse. There is good laker fishing all along the coast, however. Running "Junk" will be the choice for terminal tackle. Most skippers will run dodgers, hootchies or cowbells for lakers. Chrome, white, chartreuse dodgers and silver cowbells are the standard fare. Cowbells come in a variety of shapes. Big J&N blades or

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

willow blades are generally best. Behind the dodgers and cowbells skippers will be running a number of different lures. P-nuts, wobble glows, Spin-n-glows and squids tend to be the choice. Colors can vary but, try metallic green, white, chartreuse, pink, purple. Glow is often is key attribute. Live (dead) bait is another option that can pay big dividends. Old time commercial operations often trolled a slice of sucker belly behind a 1 pound lead ball.

At Port Austin you will want to run the lures very tight to the balls to keep them out of the rocks. Have someone standing by each downrigger ready to raise the ball if it touches bottom. Otherwise, you will lose one. The basic technique is to lower the ball until it touches bottom. Then crank it up two feet. If it touches again, crank it up another two feet. If it doesn't



touch in five minutes lower it until it touches and crank it up two feet. Yes, this is a lot of work, but if you want to insure success it is necessary and it will separate the boys from the men. Good Luck!



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.

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