

Fishin' Tales

March 2003
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Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, Mi. 48311-1255

MARCH MEETING

The March 25, 2003 Meeting will be held at St. Pius K. of C. (our regular meeting location).

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.

Pres.'s Message

By the time this is published we will be well in to the month of March. Now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, or should that be the light at the boat launch? Normally I'm like most of you - waiting for a really nice weekend towards the last week of the month or the first week end in April to pull the boat home, uncover it and start the process of cleaning, loading and maintenance to be ready to go for the River Crab. Hopefully, this will be the last of many years, 3 out of the last 5 I think, that I'll be leaving the 'Steelie Ed' sitting high and dry for the season. In the first week of May (prime fishing time) I'll be 'busy' with something that takes me out of the boating and fishing picture for at least eight weeks. Then I guess I'll

just have to beg a ride here and there (did I hear 'crews board'?) for the rest of the season.

I want to thank Don Calhoun for once again showing his support of the DAS. Don was our guest speaker in February and what a great presentation. Don showed us the slides from a recent trip he made to fish the rivers of northern British Columbia where the catch was Steelhead - in the 30 pound class. It gives a whole new meaning to 'wet dreams!' Someday! There's still some good Steelhead fishing to be had in Michigan's Rivers for the next few months. I'll be taking some gear up to Rainbow Bend sometime later this month or early in April. I'll let you know how it goes.

Scheduled for this month we have Jeff Braunschidle from the Michigan DNR coming in as our guest speaker. Watch the web site for details. And don't forget that this is our annual (now a bi-annual) swap meet night. Gather up that dusty gear you've wanted to sell or trade and bring it to the March meeting. Hang on to that extra allowance because there may be a few items you'll want for your boat, trailer or ??????. We'll open the doors at 7:00 P.M. and hold the start of the meeting to give everyone a chance to browse through the goodies.

I want to thank everyone who attended our Sportsmen's Game Dinner on March 8th as well as those who gave their time and effort to work this event. As in the past, the wild game was top-notch and the events and raffles were great! Our many thanks go to those businesses and individuals who donated goods, services and/or their time to this annual event. Steve, Tom and their

crew did another outstanding job and I hope the tradition continues in 2004.

We've been working on converting our member database from an older DOS program in to a program that will allow us to do more, faster (mailing labels for instance). We'd like to eventually get information like birthdates (to perhaps put a birthday list in the newsletter each month) and year joined so we can mark milestone anniversaries of our members. You'll hear more on this soon. One thing worth noting is that our membership list and the information on it have never been nor will it ever be made available to the public; it is not for sale.

At this point I'd like to start what I hope will be a tradition from now on. The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. would like to welcome Jerry Forsberg and Ron Hartwell; new DAS members in February. Welcome to the club fellow fishermen! Also, congratulations go to Dean Meyers (Trippin' Dipsys), Ron Maschke (The Brat) and Dave Staniszewski (Phantom) for joining the ranks of Lifetime Members of the DAS. You join good company, indeed! I'm sure there are a few names that did not get included here. I'll try to have those I missed in my next article. You can also see me at our membership meetings or send me an e-mail to ew@detroitsteelheaders.org and I'll make sure you get mentioned in the next 'Fishing Tales'

By the way; did I mention 30 days to launch? Let's hope we don't have to dodge any ice flows at the River Crab. Here comes the Sun, we hope! Keep those hooks sharp!
Ed Wilczek, President

MARCH TACKLE RAFFLE ITEMS

- DAIWA 47LC REEL
- LARGE FISH NET
- FOLDING CHAIR
- BOAT SAFETY ITEMS
- FLARES
- FIRSTAID KIT

Spring Tactics

The tactics that you will employ at the River Crab and at other ports in the spring differ from other times of the year.

The Spring fishery is generally a near shore, shallow water fishery. The salmon and brown trout are generally feeding on baitfish near shore in warmer water areas. These areas might be the mouths of creeks or warm water discharges from power plants. But, find the bait and you will find the salmon.

Typical methods include long lining baits to keep them away from the boat. In shallow water, fish tend to move off to the side of the boat when it approaches rather than letting it troll over them. As a result, planer boards, either in-line such as Yellow Birds or dual planers such as the Offshore Dual Planers can put your lures off to the side where the fish are. (Just remember that these set-ups can reduce your maneuverability, so be careful in shallow water or in boat packs.)

One of the most popular baits for early spring fishing on Southern Lake Huron is the Long A Bomber or a similar bait such as the Rebel Fast Track, Yozuri Crystal Minnow or Rapala Minnow. They look a lot like smelt which are often schooling near shore this time of year. Another hot baits can be a Hot-n-Tot. The hot colors vary from year to year, but gold/ orange back, Silver/ black back, Fire Tiger (green/ chartreuse with black stripes), Wonderbread (White with colored dots) are often good starting points. Color preferences can change as the sun comes up so stay awake and change if you hit a lull.

The hooks on some of these baits are more suitable for a bass than for big kings. Skippers often replace the tail hook with a 4X strong treble big enough to tackle a king. (Use one Silver Steak sized) Also, my experience has been that removing

the front treble on the bait results in less bottom hang-ups in shallow water.

For the most part I start the year with fresh line that I intend to use through the summer. That generally means 17 or 20-lb. test for me. However, I have observed that boats running 12 or 14-LB test seem to do better in the spring. It's worth a try. I'm not sure if the fish are line shy or the thinner line goes deeper or what; but it seems to work better.

Have a few big lip, deep diving Bombers to vary the depth of your lures and get them where the fish are. At times, the big lips will out perform regular lures.

Other techniques that get the baits away from the boats are also effective in shallow water. Dipsey Divers set to #3 can be used with body baits, spoons or Hootchies. Lead lines (generally only a half core is needed) can be effective.

Sometimes depth control requires adding lead in-line. I think the easiest and fastest way to do this is to have an assortment of lead rubber-core sinkers. Twist them on the line 4 or 5 feet in front of your bait. Don't put them 10 feet in front or you won't be able to reel your fish to the net. Don't put them too close or you will kill the lure action. As always, attention to detail is important. Rubber core sinkers sometimes have a sharp edge on them just waiting to bite your line off just when a big king hits. Remove the rubber core before you go fishing and lightly camfer the end opening to make sure they don't have any sharp edges.

Some of the new add-on weights developed for the walleye circuit also work well in the spring. A box of assorted weights will cost about 20 bucks and be useful all season long.

Dipsy Divers are also a good spring choice. Set the diver to 2 1/2 or three to get it as far from the

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

7:30 PM Tuesday, March 25,
SWAP NIGHT –bring your stuff!

RIVER TOURNAMENTS

For more information call Doug
Karakas at (248) 545-1181

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| River Crab | April 26 |
| St. Joe | May 3 |
| Grand Haven | May 17-18 |
| Oscoda | June 7 |
| Special People | June 14 |
| Harbor Beach | June 28 |
| Port Austin | July 19 |
| Ludington Ladies | August 2 |
| Ludington | August 9 |
| Manistee | August 23 |
| Port Sanilac | September 6 |

will tell you what they want. Spring fishing can be the best of the year! Bob Mitchell EI-Lin

2003 Rivercrab Salmon Stakes Fishing Tournament Prize Structure

The Blue Water Sportfishing Association is recommending the following changes to the fishing tournament prize structure.

Super Skipper Prizes

The super skipper is the captain of the fishing team that turns in the heaviest combined weight.

Club Prize: \$1000.00 to the club that the super skipper belongs to.
Individual Prize: \$500 to the skipper of the boat that turns in the heaviest catch.

Heaviest of Specie: King Salmon, Coho, Brown Trout, Steelhead

Club Prize: \$1000.00 to the club that the angler belongs to who turns in the largest of each specie.
Individual Prize: \$500 to the angler who turns in the biggest of each specie.

Clubs must be registered with the state of Michigan **AND** approved by the Rivercrab Salmonstakes Tournament Committee **prior** to the start of the tournament.

In the event that the prizes be won by an independent participant (not belonging to a registered club), the club prize portion shall be donated to the Blue Water Clinic. The individual prizes shall remain the same.

This time of year is time to lose the cabin fever and get back to fishing! Bring those body baits, set your trolling speed a bit slower and let's show the other clubs how it's done.

Hope to see everyone in attendance to support this charity and our club! GO D.A.S.!

Entry tickets and dinner tickets will be available at future meetings. For any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact:

Mark Bevens (586) 779-3189



Port Austin, D.A.S. Big Fish Quest, July 19th & 20th, 2003.

Tournament Director Mike Vigus. Fisherman's meeting to be held July 18th, 2003 at 7:30p.m. At 8861 Line St., corner of Line St. & State St.

This will be our clubs 1st annual public money tournament. Tournaments are not for everyone but this one is designed to give every individual a fair chance at taking home the grand prize. It is a Big Fish Tournament, which means, heaviest fish weighed will take home the \$\$\$\$\$. It's up for grabs so sign up early and try your hand at putting a big-boy on the scale. For more information contact: Mike Vigus at (248)969-8530 or check us out on the web at: <http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org/bigfish/bigfish.html>

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Detroit Area Steelheaders has announced a new membership drive. If your membership has expired prior to December 2001, or you are a brand new member signing

boat as you can. Minnow baits or spoons are good choices for these, too.

In spite of all of the above, no salmon will ever read the above information. I am constantly amazed that in the Spring, some boat runs into a school of bigger kings offshore in deeper water. Often the biggest fish caught are not the ones caught close to shore. Don't be afraid to test deeper water; especially in practice. It is a bigger risk but it just may be the move that yields that \$500 fish you seek. Be flexible, listen to the fish and they

up for the first time, your name will be entered into a drawing for a brand new GPS/2 Way Radio Combo handheld unit, called the Rino 110 by Garmin. The drawing will be held at our April meeting, held the last Tuesday of the month, at the K of C hall. DAS decals for your boat and truck, and a DAS patch, for your favorite fishing vest or jacket, will be given to all new members as well. This is with a paid \$25.00 one year membership fee, or a \$150.00 lifetime membership fee.

New members receive regular monthly issues of the "FISHIN' TALES" newsletter, among the finest published anywhere.

Organized events all year long, including boat trolling, river fishing and ice fishing tournaments, held all over the state.

Social events such as the Valentines Dinner Dance, and our annual Wild Game

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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.

into existence as a sport club. This is our 29th year in existence as a sportfishing club, and we have great guest speakers lined up for upcoming meetings.

Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? If its marked yellow, you are expired (no; just your membership!) Don't be disqualified from a tournament or the River Crab 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.

New members

- Robert Bronson
- Joseph Bezel
- George Plant
- Joe Oros-- New Lifetime member
- Tom Megna
- Steven Lvokkala
- Steve Spiegel-- New Lifetime
- Ron Hartwell
- Jerry Forsberg

-Welcome!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY