

Fishin' Tales

Meeting Date Changed to April 22!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



in to the southern end just at the point we'll be trying to get out for the Crab. I hope not! With the new rules structure in place this could be one of the more interesting River Crab Tournaments in many years. Now if only the weather and the fish co-operate it'll be all we can ask for, with the possible exception of adding a good amount of water to the lakes to bring their levels back up.

As I'm thinking about it, I can't remember when I didn't attend at least the dinner after the tournament but that may change this year. Pat is going to be recovering from surgery that takes place on April 16th. That wasn't supposed to happen until August but as it sometimes happens the best laid plans....! Last month I mentioned I'd be 'busy' in May and that this would keep the 'Steelie Ed' in dry dock one more season. Now I'll tell you why. Both Pat and I are having what is known as Bariatric Bypass Surgery (Weight Loss Surgery). My turn comes on May 5th. I've been trying since late February to get myself in better condition to undergo this procedure. I've got a great surgical team led by Dr. Jeffery Genaw at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. If all goes well I'll be out and home by May 10th and I may try to attend the May membership meeting; and if not by then, certainly by June. I mention this because, among other reasons, I've asked Vice President Mark Bevans to step in and take the helm. Having the opportunity to get to know Mark over the years I know the club is in very good hands. Just remember this Mark – SHAKE EM' UP! And now I'll unashamedly ask for your thoughts and prayers for Pat and me both. (Cont. Page 3)

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APRIL MEETING

Willis Kerridge of Thunder Duck Charters in Grand Haven will be our guest speaker on April 22nd (NOTE DATE - ONE WEEK EARLY!). The April 22, 2003 Meeting will be held at St. Pius K. of C. (our regular meeting location). Willis will share his expertise on fishing Lake Michigan, especially in the Grand Haven area. Guests are always welcome to attend DAS meetings.

Pres.'s Message

Get ready, get set....SNOW! Or at least that's what's predicted to hit this early April as I write this Pre River Crab article. I know a lot of you are cleaning up after the ice storm and a few of you have been dealing with power outages and damage caused by falling trees and limbs. Just when you thought it was safe to take the winter cover off the boat. Oh well, hopefully by the time you read this old Mother Nature will have shaken the cobwebs off and thrown some nice warm weather at us and the Ice Man leaveith.

If you noticed, this was supposed to have been one of the coldest winters around the Great Lakes in decades. The lakes almost all iced completely over by late January and it didn't look like the ice would clear out in time for the River Crab. I'm wondering if a lot of the ice up to the north in Lake Huron will be packing

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Sterling Heights, Mi. 48311-1255

Jeff Braunschidle put on a great presentation at the March meeting and I'd like to thank him. He put up with having to change dates (he was supposed to speak in January but graciously changed plans so David Jude could come in that month) and then he had to speak loudly at the meeting so those in the back could hear him. Even so, it was a great meeting made better by our speaker and the great swap items that were available. We'll have Willis Kerridge in this month talking about fishing tactics in Lake Michigan and I'm sure there'll be some how-to information you can use at the River Crab.

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

7:30 PM Tuesday, April 22
May 27

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

At the March meeting I tried to give a warm welcome to all the new members in attendance. I know I missed a few of you as I didn't have a complete list available. Please accept my apologies. I'd like to welcome to the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. these new members: Helen Hummel, Tim

Ferguson, Randy Kowalczewski, Constantin Tsevas, Duane Dean, Allan Mulka, Mike Gidcumb, Chris Seifferlein and Jim Younan. Again, if anyone was missed please accept my apologies.

Finally- I've added a new style of message board to our web site. You can find the link on the old message board. Go in and register and once through the 'approval process' you can use the new board and its many new features like the on-line 'Crew's Board' and the Swap and Sell areas.

That's it until next month I hope. I may just ask Mr. Bevans to write the next article while I'm taking a bit of a break. If all goes well I'll see everyone at the May meeting. In the mean time sharpen those hooks for me and haul in a big Salmon or Trout for me, okay? And remember to take a photo and e-mail it to me. The only thing I like better than landing a fish myself is to see someone else having fun doing the same.

Ed Wilczek
President

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 Bevans (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>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Detroit Area Steelheaders new membership drive will end in April. A drawing for a brand new GPS/2 Way Radio Combo handheld unit will be held at our April meeting.

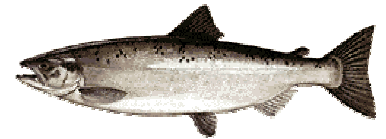
New members

- Helen Hummel--Warren
- Tim Ferguson---Warren
- Randy Kowalczewski---Warren
- Constantin Tsevas---Troy
- Duane Dean---Warren
- Allan Mulka---Utica
- Robert Bronson---Sterling Hts
- Joseph Bezel---Clinton Twp
- George Plant---Pontiac
- Joe Oros---Troy---Lifetime Member
- Tom Megna---Sterling Hts
- Steven Lvokkala---Garden City
- Steve Spiegel---South Lyon---Lifetime Member
- Ron Hartwell---W. Bloomfield
- Jerry Forsberg---Birmingham
- Mike Gidcumb---W. Bloomfield
- Chris Seifferlein---Clinton Twp
- Jim Younan---St Clair Shores



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.



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LAKER TECHNIQUES

The mid summer tournaments will likely focus on lake trout. Depending upon the Kings, the D.A.S. Big Fish Quest could be won with a giant Laker. The biggest fish caught in the Great Lakes in some years is a Laker; not a King! As such, skippers will want to be ready to target these fish.



Lake trout fishing at Port Austin can be very different from that at Oscoda. While the basic fish is the same, the differences in bottom structure result in differing techniques.

Port Austin is a rocky reef that loves to eat cannon balls and lures. Oscoda has a mud bottom that you can actually drag baits along.

First, lets review some of the aspects that will remain the same. Lake Trout fishing is generally SLOW trolling. There's an old joke that goes "You pull alongside a boat that is catching fish and then you go half that speed." In reality, a trolling speed of 1.2 to 1.6 knots should be about right. You may need to use a sea anchor or a couple buckets dragged alongside to slow your boat to these speeds; but, you must find a way to slow down. Lakers, especially big lakers like slow lures.

Given the time of year, the lakers will probably be in deep, cold water; about 80-90 feet of water where the temperature should be 48 to 52 degrees. Most big lakers will be right on the bottom.

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.

At Oscoda, the best laker fishing has been near the drop-off; East of the harbor. You can't miss it as the bottom will quickly drop from 80 to 100'. Regardless, the fleet will key you in to where the best fishing is likely to be. Lakers don't generally move day-to-day the way cohos will. "If they were in a spot yesterday, they will likely still be there today".

"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 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-glow 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. (You may lose one anyway. The reef is hungry.) 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 up two feet. Yes, his is a lot of work, but if you want to insure success it is necessary.

At Oscoda, you can run the lures further back and that generally helps; provided they don't tangle.

At Oscoda, a local charterboat favorite is to run a crank bait such as a small Hot-N-Tot behind a large Williams Wobbler used as an attractor. Purple has been the hot color. Another technique has been to run a weight such as a bait walker in front of the dodgers to insure that it runs on the bottom. Run a dodger four feet behind a 2 ounce Bait Walker. Run the whole rig 50 feet behind the cannon ball. Don't try either technique at Port Austin as the reef will grab it and eat it up in a minute.

Some lakers will come on clean spoons; especially if they are run alongside junk. Test your spoons to see which ones run well at the slow trolling speeds. ET's or Silver streaks are good choices. The lakers will tell you which color to run, but be prepared with green, black, silver, white. Stackers and sliders can be used except with cowbells. Trying to run a slider over a cowbell setup works until you get a fish. Then the cowbells will cut them off once they slide down to the main lures.

While trolling, try not to make sharp turns or you will tangle lines that are set that deep. Slow speeds also make maneuvering tricky in a wind. Do try to troll in an "S" pattern. If the waves are up, don't try to troll into the waves. Troll through the area you are targeting fish and then pick everything up and run back to the start. Its better to do this and insure that your baits are running right than to troll for an hour with tangled baits.

Good luck and good fishing.....Kemo