

Fishin' Tales

May 2003
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Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
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MAY MEETING

The May 27, 2003 Meeting will be held at St. Pius K. of C. (our regular meeting location). Chris Nytko will have his boat on site to do a mini-seminar on setting up a boat for trolling on the Great Lakes. A panel of last year's top Skipper of the Year placers will share their tactics for consistently catching fish. Guests are always welcome to attend DAS meetings.

Special People: Let's Go Fishing

This will be the 20th year of the Detroit Area Steelheaders doing their part to enrich a day in the life of our Special Friends. June 14th 2003 is our outing day for this year and we need your help. We will need approximately 25 boats to fill our need to accommodate all of our Special people. The Toledo Beach Marina again this year has gracefully offered their facility for the weekend to the D.A.S. "Thanks in advance to Marshall Gill". Kroger's at 11 Mile and Hoover has jumped up to sponsor the food, pop, condiments, etc. "Thanks to Erin Ryan or making the connections with the store manager Thanks to Mike Vigus for obtaining the Club Tent.

June 14th Captains will receive their Special fishing people starting at 7:30. I will need the Captains at the Club tent at 7:00 for the Captains meeting. The Club tent will be set up by the West bath and shower building (nearest the entrance). Please contact Doug Karakas at our May Meeting or by Phone 248-545-1181 or email mkarakas@aol.com. This will be a very rewarding day in not only our Special people but also yours too.

Captain Doug Karakas
Special People Chairperson



St. Joe Tournament

The Detroit Area Steelheaders hit the road the weekend of May 3rd with our annual trip to St. Joseph. Colleen and I made it out of town about 12:30 Friday. We made great time going there, the traffic was light and no ORANGE BARRELS. We made the trip in 3 1/2 hours. We arrived in St. Joe in time for the afternoon bite. After we launched the boat and I was motoring down the river to meet Colleen at West Basin I turn my radio and listen to the marine forecast. They were saying 5 to 7 foot waves on the near shore report for the St. Joe area. When I cleared the railroad bridge and could see down the river into the lake I could see the white caps. We decided to stay in port Friday. After talking to club members and locals who fished Friday morning, we found that the best fishing was

straight out to 4 miles south in 45 to 55 ft. of water.

We woke Saturday morning to calmer winds. Mike Vigus held the Captains meeting at 5:00 am. He reminded us about the 2 Lake Trout rule on Lake Michigan, he talked about the tournament rules, the start and stop time of the tournament and fish calls. Joe VonGrabe gave a fishing report. 16 boats signed up for the tournament.

- 1-Dave Roehr Loki One
- 2- Bill Dunk Freebird
- 3- Tom Gorguza
- 4- Dick Shirk Lil Scratch
- 5- Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag
- 6- Mark Stosiak Tomorro's Dream
- 7- Bill Macomb
- 8- Joe Golaszewski My Treasure
- 9- Dan Colombe Atlantis
- 10- Dean Meyers Trip-n-Dipsey
- 11- Bob Paradise Almost Paradise
- 12- Stan Brentwood
- 13- Lou Bacskin Crews Inn
- 14- Ron Maschke The Brat
- 15- Duane Dean
- 16- Rob Golaszewski Silver Rush
- 17- Mike Vigus Crusader

We left port at 5:30 with the start of the tournament at 6:00. Colleen and I set up just outside the pier heads in 40 ft. of water. We trolled south and out toward deeper water. We hit a nice King and a small Coho within 30 minutes. After an hour of no knock offs we pulled lines and motored 3 miles farther south. After setting lines we hit a nice King in about 10 minutes. At the 9:00 fish call we had 3 fish. Hammer Time checked in with 9 fish, Crusader with 8, Second Wind with 8, and Trip-N-Dipsy with 6. We were obviously behind the pack. But we had moved into a good area and were catching fish. By the 12:00 fish call Crusader and Trip-N-Dipsy had punched their tickets and returned to port. We had 9 fish by then and were

looking for that tenth to complete our limit. Sloppy Joe reported in with 9 fish, Outa-Line with 10, Mary K with 9, Hammer Time with 12, and Second Wind with 11. It was clear we were going to have a good weigh-in. The tournament ended at 2:00 and boats returned to port. Mary K called in with a dead battery and was coming in on their kicker motor. Outa-Line and The Brat followed them in to make sure they made it safely. All boats reported to the Port Captain that they had returned to port. At the weigh-in we had hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks. Our Weigh Master "Doug Karakas" started weighing in fish. Some very nice catches were being hung on the scale. Doug weighed a total of 63 Kings, 37 Coho, 9 Lake Trout, 8 Steelhead, and 1 Lake Trout. When all was weighed Mike Vigus and crew came out on top with a score of 130.00. Joe VonGrabe and crew were second with a score of 115.02, and I was a close third with a score of 115.00. 15 of the 16 boats entered weighed fish. Dean Meyers of Trip-n-Dipsy won the big fish pool with a King weighing 19.11 lbs. v

For our first road trip this was a lot of fun. Good fishing, Good weather, and Great friends, Priceless!

Mark Bevans-VP, Port Captain

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>

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Detroit Area Steelheaders new membership drive ended in May. A drawing for a brand new GPS/2 Way Radio Combo handheld unit was held at our May meeting. The winner was new member Duane Dean and he is from Warren. Congratulations!

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

7:30 PM Tuesday, May 27

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

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

SHARPENING HOOKS

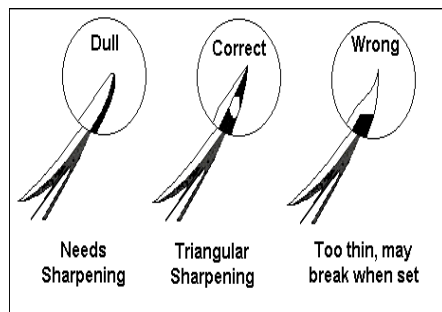
No matter what your skill level is, beginner, intermediate or advanced tournament angler, ultimately your final connection to a fish is by a hook. The hook is what brings a striking fish into the boat and this fact makes sharp hook knowledge one of the most important considerations you can make every time you cast or troll. A dull hook is the single biggest

reason anglers lose fish. A dull hook won't set in the bony structure near the rear of the mouth. It slides forward and sets in the soft front of the mouth where the tissue can stretch and break. The result is a lost fish.

In the 1990s, hook manufacturers such as Mustad, Tiemco and Daiichi, finally addressed the need for sharper hook point designs and there are a number of specialty hooks on the market. With the advent of better grinding technology, laser sharpening and chemically sharpened hooks, a new generation of hooks has become available.

Chemically sharpened hooks are generally more expensive than conventional hooks, but since they achieve a better hookup rate and are still one of the most economical parts of any modern fishing rig, they are growing in popularity. In fact, these hooks are used immediately, straight out of the packet.

Invariably, and ultimately, it is the point and barb design that penetrate the fish's mouth parts and hold it. Regardless of shank, gap and throat style, you will need a sharp point, any available cutting edges and a de-burred barb. Following are some problem areas to keep alert for.



A great part of successful hook point design comes from the correct length of the point to barb area. If this tapered wedge becomes too short, it will be difficult to get good penetration. Look out for short, poorly formed points struck in factory dies. These are hard to sharpen and do not

penetrate well. Replace individual hooks with this defect. Over-sharpening also causes this condition.

A bent point will cause immediate fish losses and your first sign of trouble is a fish that jumps and throws the lure. This is most common on worm and crankbait hooks and needs immediate correction. The causes of bent points are, in order of occurrence probability: over-sharpened "hair thin" points, poor point design, impact with hard mouth bones of fish and shake-off from snags, especially rocks. Bent points can be instantly detected by sliding fingertips from area outside barb down to the point. Correct immediately with a file or replace lure or hook if fishing time allows the delay. You may also set the lure aside to replace the hook at home.

A high, prominent barb with a burr elevated by the forming dies can easily stop penetration past the barb. This area is quickly reduced and sharpened using a Sharp Hook File.

Only a file can put cutting edges and angles on a hook. "Finger nail" penetration tests are meaningless on a crankbait-style hook. Fish do not have "fingernails" and all you want to do is cut your way in and through the skin, cartilage or gristle over bony areas. On crankbaits you must play fish according to the fact you can loop around a bone with the hook gap and bend, but rarely penetrate, bone. You will be attached to fish only by skin and cartilage areas, so play them accordingly.

Most specialty hooks offer a sharp point that will soon need sharpening after impact and their point sharpness can easily be matched by the sharpening sequences shown here. A case for stronger hooks or one size larger hooks exists if you must stop large fish from making a run in timber or brush.

Teflon-coated hooks have quick penetration as long as they have a good point design, but their effectiveness is reduced as soon as they need sharpening and expense is still a factor.

To sharpen specialty hooks, just follow the blade cutting edges and point angles already on the hook and restore them with a file.

A file only cuts on the forward stroke. With practice, you can get a hook as sharp as many specialty hooks. Remember, sharp hooks are dangerous, so to avoid injury, treat thrashing fish with great caution and handle all lures with care.

The hooks on your lure represent one of the most vital links in the chain that is in your fish tackle. In deed, when a fish strikes, your hooks are your most important link to a successful catch. Regardless of the weight of your line, the quality of your reel, the backbone of your rod or the sturdiness of your leader, if your hooks are dull and/or weak, you run the risk of a major disappointment.

The attribute of a hook that is most conducive to fishing success is its sharpness. A hook that is sharp has a better chance at penetrating the bone of a fish's jaw during the hooks set. There isn't a standard hook made that is sharp enough for the average angler without some sharpening activity on the part of the angler.

If you take a close look at a virgin hook, you will notice that, although it is "sharp", it is not honed down to a fine "pin sharp" point. That "pin sharp" point is the goal of any hook sharpening activity. The sharpening of one of the hooks used by today's angler is typically accomplished using a file.

The single sided flat file is a standard in bait shops. They are effective and inexpensive and should be in every angler's tackle

box. The double file uses two rounded files set side by side and secured with a high impact plastic hand grip. The file will quickly hone a hook to a reasonably sharp point.

Each of these files are, with the proper application, capable of putting a good point on a hook, however, I would encourage all of you to consider using both files in order to quickly put that "pin sharp" point on your hooks. Use the double rounded file to hone the shape of your hook to a point. You may have to angle the file to the right and left as you pass it over the hook shaft and point. Once you have a good point on your hook using the double round file, take the single sided file and sculpt the hook to an extremely sharp pinpoint.

How sharp should your hook be? The short answer is, as sharp as you can make it. There is a saying on the water that says "your hooks should be so sharp that you draw blood by just looking at them".

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That may be a bit overstated but it does make the point (excuse the pun).

How often should you sharpen your hooks? Your hooks should get their first sharpening right out of the package. Remember that no "virgin" hook is sharp enough for the angler. After that, I would encourage you to check your hooks for sharpness every time you put them out.. You should certainly, after a days fishing, check your hooks and refresh your hooks as needed. As anglers, we spend a lot of time preparing for the eventual fish encounter. Give your hooks their due and they will do for you what you require for a good hook set. Mark Bevans

D.A.S. Returns to Oscoda for 2003

The 2003 tournament schedule will take us to Oscoda for our June 7th tournament. This will be our first visit back in about 3 or 4 years to a very productive port. Lake Trout have always been the mainstay for

Oscoda, but, we're earlier than usual and with the weather pushing back the fish' schedule we may be in for major King action. There are usually a good number of Steelhead caught also, remember you fishing the home of the famous "AuSable River". Traditionally the Lakers are on the bottom and at this port the bottom is sand. The bottom contour is a hi/lo, wavy bottom; with the use of a 2oz bait walker ahead of your rigs it will follow the bottom changes. This technique will be discussed at the May meeting; handouts for Oscoda will also be available.

Port Captain for Oscoda
Captain Doug Karakas



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY