



FISHING TALES



Heavy August action expected at Ludington

LUDINGTON – Once again, there will be back-to-back Detroit Area Steelheaders at the very popular and usually productive Lake Michigan port of Ludington. This ought to provide great fishing over two consecutive weekends while saving time, gas and effort by avoiding having to change ports.

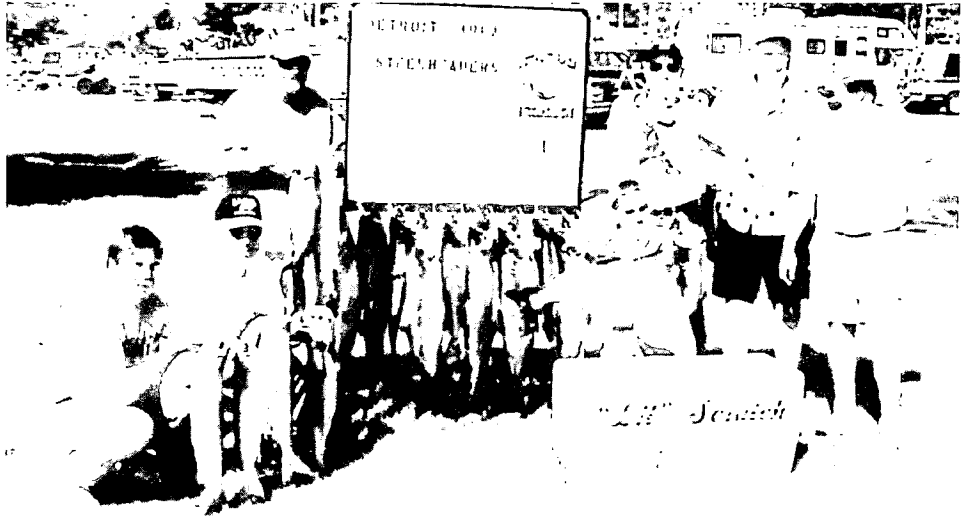
The first of the two events will be our annual Ladies Day tournament, on Saturday, August 2. Modified rules are in effect, so the ladies must fight the fish to the net. Club Directors on hand will be on the lookout for fishermen in drag! Following the fishing, there will again be a pig roast, and all participating boats are asked to bring a dish to pass. Please be sure to keep it on ice so we can limit the tournament to salmon and NOT salmonella!!

The Skippers Meeting will be held at 5:00 a.m. at the Ludington Municipal Marina. Starting time from the pier heads is scheduled for 6:00 a.m., with Fish Calls taking place at 9:00 a.m. and noon. Don't forget to pull your lines one hour early, at 1:00 p.m. The weigh-in will take place starting at 2:30 p.m. at the same location we've used for the regular tournaments the past few years, Peter Copian Park off Washington Street.

The second tourney will be held on Saturday, August 9, and all regular tournament rules will apply. The Skippers Meeting, starting time, and Fish Calls will be the same as for the Ladies Day event, but we will pull lines at 2:00 p.m. for a 3:30 weigh-in, also back at Peter Copian Park.

Those of you who have fished Ludington the past few years know that the fishing can change fast, so Steelheaders must be prepared with a variety of rigs. The fishing can be fast and furious at times, usually producing a mixed bag of large King Salmon, along with Cohos, Lake Trout, Steelhead, and Brown Trout. Even Atlantic Salmon have made it to our scales in recent tournaments at this port.

One good rig to have ready is the Hootchie/fly combo, with the white Hootchie/seaweed fly being a consistent producer. Run it off a downrigger or Dipsy. If the fish are deep, another good one to run is the dodger/squid package. White, yellow or chrome "0" dodgers are generally the preferred colors. Glow



OUTSTANDING CATCH LIKE THESE, taken during a recent DAS tournament at Ludington, are usually the rule, rather than the exception, at this great port.

squid, black squid, or green squid trailing the dodger by about 18 inches usually work well.

Spoons are another top bait to try. These can be very effective, especially early in the morning, or if the fish are scattered. At Ludington, the top spoon color has proved over the years to be the "M & M," a Northport Nailer in chartreuse with green tape. A recent favorite to keep in mind is the Silver Streak Dolphin spoon, in green or blue. Other good ones to have in your arsenal are Monkey Puke (yellow green) and the Tequila Sunrise (yellow orange). If Steelhead are present, be sure to run orange or red spoons in the top 40'. Dipsy Divers produce bonus fish, often Coho, Steelhead or Browns. Keep the Yellow Birds on board just in case you want to try them at first light. Lead core is also effective, when the traffic allows.

The right fishing depth will be determined by the thermocline. Expect to be fishing in 80'-100' of water if the weather has been stable. If there is a north blow, you could find 45° F on the surface at the Point!

Ludington is known for its great structure. The most common places to fish are north off the Bath House at the State Park, or further north to "The Point," easily identified by the lighthouse. There are plenty of drop-offs and

deep holes in this area. When searching for active fish, don't be afraid to try straight out from the pier heads, or even to the south off The Project, the pumped storage facility better known as a good spring fishing spot.

Keep an eye out for the presence of deep currents. Your boat may be moving at two knots per hour on the surface, but your lures can either dead in the water, or moving at four knots per hour, depending on the presence and direction of a deep current. You will know if there is a deep current by watching your cannonball wires. If they look as though they are swayed back more, or less, than normal, there is probably a deep current affecting them.

Finally, watch out for charter boats towing lead core lines. These can easily extend back 400' or more behind the boat. Don't cross behind a charter boat, or you will likely tangle with an angry charter Captain, and lose your stuff as well. Also, remember to check the web site for the latest information about tribal net placements. The latitude and longitude of nets are posted, and are generally marked on the lake by buoys.

Please feel free to see either of us at the July meeting if you would like more Ludington information.

– Dave Even & Bob Mitchell, Port Captains

How to avoid an expensive mistake!

Here is some information I think fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders ought to be aware of, as my experience may help others avoid a potentially expensive problem.

I bought and began using some Big Jon planar board masts about three years ago. I had read how West Coast fishermen spool their reels with 80-lb. monofilament so the releases will slide down the line faster than they can with Dacron. I decided to likewise load my reels with the monofilament. What a mistake that turned out to be!

This year, I noticed that my reels were breaking apart in several places. It looked as though they might have been made with bad plastic.

I decided to call Big Jon to tell them of the problem I was experiencing and try to determine if anyone else was having the

same problem.

I described what was happening to the reels, and the first thing the Big Jon people asked me was if I had spooled monofilament on the reels. When I told them that I had done just that, they explained to me that this was the source of my problem.

It turns out that monofilament stretches when you are trolling, so you are then winding in a very tightly stretched line onto the reel spool. As the line on the spool eventually relaxes, it expands, thus putting pressure on the sides of the reel, ultimately causing them to crack.

I'm happy to report that, even though it was my mistake, Big Jon replaced my reels for just shipping costs. Thanks, Big Jon!!

- Mark Bevans, "In-Seine"
Vice President

OSCODA TOURNAMENT RESULTS (June 7, 2003)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	99.02
2) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	98.08
3) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	96.04
4) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	95.10
5) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	95.04
6) SLAPSHOT (Doug Batty)	93.06
7) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	91.11
8) TYGER (Ty Voigt)	91.05
9) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	91.01
10) TIGHT LINES (Chris Miller)	89.08
11) SEA HAG (Blaise Pewinski)	86.08
12) TRIP 'N DIPSY (Dean Meyers)	80.06
13) HAPPY HOOKER II (Chris Bronner)	57.07
14) VICKI'S SEACRET (Bob Feisel)	34.12
15) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr)	0.00

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT
1) Mike Vigus, "Crusader" King Salmon, 16.08 pounds
2) Bill Dunk, "Free Bird" Lake Trout, 11.03 pounds
3) Mark Bevans, "In-Seine" Lake Trout, 11.01 pounds

TOTAL CATCH: 144 FISH

• 52 King Salmon • 5 Steelhead • 87 Lake Trout

HARBOR BEACH TOURNAMENT RESULTS (June 28, 2003)

PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	91.01
2) TERMINATOR (Skip Berry)	84.06
3) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	73.15
4) EMPTY BOX (Robert Parker)	63.15
5) TRIP-N-DIPSY (Dean Meyers)	58.11
6) PISCES (Bob Mendicki)	57.12
7) REEL SCREAMER (Fred McIntyre)	54.03
8) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	45.14
9) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	43.02
10) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	41.06
11) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	40.01
12) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	33.14
13) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	33.01
14) VICKI'S SEACRET (Bob Feisel)	33.00
15) TYGER (Ty Voigt)	32.15
16) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	24.15
17) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	15.06
18) TIGHT LINES (Chris Miller)	14.01
19) BLUE HORIZON (Paul Gjeldum)	11.03
20) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	9.00
21) HAPPY HOOKER II (Chris Bronner)	8.05
22) PAT-A-WAC (Jim Fitch)	0.00
22) S.S. GUPPIE (Dwayne Welder)	0.00

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT
1) Bill Dunk, "Freebird" Brown Trout, 14.15 pounds
3) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II" Brown Trout, 10.05 pounds
3) Robert Parker, "Empty Box" Lake Trout, 10.03 pounds

TOTAL CATCH: 84 FISH

• 12 Brown Trout • 10 King Salmon
• 56 Lake Trout • 6 Steelhead

2003 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(Standings through July 1, 2003 - Best 3)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	Total
1) BILL DUNK	2	8	2	5	1						5
2) DEAN MEYERS	10	5	1	12	5						11
3) MARK BEVANS	75	3	8	2	12						13
4) DOUG KARAKAS	18	15	4	3	10						17
4) JOE VON GRABE	50	2	10	7	8						17
6) BLAISE PEWINSKI	5	75	3	11	75						19
7) MIKE VIGUS	17	1	20	4	16						21
8) CHRIS NYTKO	75	7	75	1	17						25
9) BOB JONES	50	12	5	75	9						26
10) RON MASCHKE	14	13	11	75	3						27
10) DAVE ROEHR	1	11	15	15	75						27
10) DICK SHIRK	4	75	12	75	11						27
13) BOB PARADISE	11	10	17	75	75						38
14) TY VOIGT	75	75	16	8	15						39
15) ED HILL	75	75	18	9	13						40
16) BOB FEISEL	50	75	14	14	14						42
17) BILL NUTTING	50	14	9	75	20						43
18) KEN KUCHAR	50	9	19	75	75						78
19) SKIP BERRY	75	75	6	75	2						83
20) MARK STOSIAK	6	75	13	75	75						94
21) ROBERT PARKER	75	75	21	75	4						100
22) PAUL GJELDUM	75	75	75	75	19						101
23) CHRIS MILLER	75	75	75	10	18						103
24) CHRIS BRONNER	75	75	75	13	21						109
25) TOM GORGUZA	3	75	75	75	75						153
26) MICHAEL KEATING	75	4	75	75	75						154
27) DOUG BATTY	75	75	75	6	75						156
27) BOB MENDICKI	75	75	75	75	6						156
27) JOHN MILBORNE	75	6	75	75	75						156
30) BILL MACOMB	7	75	75	75	75						157
30) FRED MCINTYRE	75	75	75	75	7						157
32) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	8	75	75	75	75						158
33) DANNY COLOMBE	9	75	75	75	75						159
34) LOU BACSIKIN	13	75	75	75	75						163
35) ROB GOLASZEWSKI	16	75	75	75	75						166

50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Grand Haven D = Oscoda E = Harbor Beach
F = Port Austin G = Ludington (Ladies Day) H = Ludington J = Manistee K = Port Sanilac

President delivers mid-season update

My last article in these pages started out with "Get ready, get set . . . SNOW!" My, how time flies when you're having fun.

As I write this, there are just a few days left before our first Port Austin Big Fish Quest tournament. Well, all I can say is I hope it doesn't snow for that one! I'm not too worried about that happening, but then again you never know where Michigan is concerned . . . !

I'm hoping we get a very good turnout, not only of club members, but also a large number of non-DAS members as well. I certainly hope Mike Vigus, Mark Bevans and the rest of the Big Fish Quest Committee get the same great support our club members have delivered for past big club projects. In the end, I'm certain we'll have more helping hands for this event than we will know what to do with.

I'm also excited at the prospect of gaining some new members who will decide to join with the rest of us fishing, fun-loving Detroit Area Steelheaders.

I also mentioned in the May *Fishin' Tales* that I would be having some surgery later that month. I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to everyone who expressed their best wishes before and after the surgery. Things went very well even with a few unexpected complications, and, obviously, I'm up and around now, and "itchin' to go fishin'!"

With any luck, my doctor will give me clearance at the end of this week (July 11) to resume full activities. If so, I just may head for Alpena after the Big Fish Quest to attend the

Michigan Brown Trout Festival as I have in past years – even if I don't fish, there's still plenty of fun to have and trouble to get into. Or I may head over to Grand Haven to take a trip with Mark Stosiak. Mark, get your boat ready!

One of the first times I ventured out for any appreciable amount of time, post-surgery, was when Pat and I made the trip to Toledo Beach Marina on June 14 to visit during the Special People Outing. For our newer members who may not know about this event, our club has for many years set aside a day to treat many developmentally disabled young people to a fun day of fishing on Lake Erie. We're told that our "Special People" look forward to this day almost as though it's another Christmas.

This year I was told by Linda (who coordinates the event for us with the Monroe School District, if I'm not mistaken) about one young lady who started 'bugging' her Mom back in January, wanting to know if it was time to fishing with the Steelheaders yet. It means that much to these kids. I'm glad that Pat and I were able to return once again this year to enjoy their company. I sincerely hope and pray I'll have the "Steelie Ed" available to participate in this event by the time the middle of June rolls around again in 2004.

Once again, my hat goes off to Doug and Mary Karakas, and all the Skippers and Crews who, year after year, help to make our Special Guests very happy. I'm sure Doug and Mary

have a long list of folks to thank as well, so I'll let them do those honors. Take another much-deserved bow, Doug and Mary – thank you both so much!

While I'm at it, I also want to thank Detroit Area Steelheaders Vice President Mark Bevans for holding down the fort in my absence these past few months. I understand he did a first-class job as our fearsome leader. It's going to have been great practice for Mark when he quite possibly becomes my successor next January. Thanks, Mark!

I don't think we'll have to worry about snow for a while yet. As we enter the so-called "dog days" of summer, we should have some great fishing to look forward to as we fly past the Big Fish Quest event and head for Ladies Day tourney at Ludington on August 2, and then the rest of our summer-tourney schedule.

I look forward to all those tasty dishes at the pot-luck picnic after the Ladies show us men how it's done. Eat hearty, guys, because hopefully you'll need the energy for the regular Ludington tournament on August 9. I hope there will be a chorus of screaming reels and some heavy coolers during both those events.

I also hope and expect there'll be some great fishing all during August, including our Manistee tournament on August 23. Keep those hooks sharp, gang! I'll see you at our meetings, and maybe on the docks!

- Ed "Steelie Ed" Wilczek
President, Detroit Area Steelheaders

FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC. Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of issues and events affecting sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers, other waters, and land.

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CREWS Hot Line

NEED A CREW?

*Are you looking for crew members
to fish with you in
Detroit Area Steelheader
Boat Trolling Tournaments?*

WANT TO CREW?

*Would you like to fish in
Detroit Area Steelheader
Boat Trolling Tournaments
but don't have a boat?*

Call the Crews Hot Line to find Skippers looking for crew members, or crew members looking for a boat for fishing during the 2003 season. Contact:

JOE VON GRABE: (586) 293-7688
DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181

D.N.R. again seeks help from anglers

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) is requesting the help of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan anglers for an ongoing D.N.R. Trout/Salmon study.

Nearly 1,000,000 Chinook Salmon, marked with a coded wire tag and clipped adipose fin, are released annually in the Great Lakes by the D.N.R. The tags are implanted into the fish's snout and are not visible. Trout and Salmon with only an adipose fin missing may contain such a tag.

Anglers who catch these fish are urged to freeze the fish's head only, record its species, length, weight, sex, date and location of capture, and deliver the frozen head, along with their own name and address to the nearest D.N.R. Fisheries Division office or participating drop-site location. A list of drop sites can be found at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>.

Participating anglers will receive a letter describing the stocking history of their fish, and, possibly, a free lure as a reward.

Make your plans now for those BIG KINGS at Manistee!

MANISTEE – The eighth stop on the 2003 Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament trail will find our fleet invading Manistee on August 23. This is a favorite port of many of our Skippers, as evidenced by the excellent turnout we enjoy each year here. Maybe it's the variety of fish available that gets everyone fired up for this event, or perhaps it's the chance to get that trophy of a lifetime.

This port routinely produces Master Angler entries, and this is the perfect time of year to land that "one for the wall!" Just remember that "Monster Coho" caught here a few years back. With 1,000,000+ fish planted here annually, there's plenty to go around for everyone.

Depending on the weather conditions, one of the favorite areas to work is the shelf, or ledge, that's about two to three miles out and runs south all the way to Big Sable Point. Some of the landmarks in this direction are Gurney Creek and Three Bears.

With the recent change permitting tournament fishing up to a 20-mile radius from the harbor, you can fish off Big Sable Point along with the boats out of Ludington. Sometimes the big Kings can be found off the river mouth, or just north of the Green Onion. If locating the larger targets proves difficult, you can always find Steelhead and three-year-old Kings straight out in deeper water.

Spoons will usually account for their fair share, but if the fish are deep, dodger or Hootchies with flies will tend to get the bigger fish. Don't be afraid to try some J-Plugs, even if you're not fishing off the pier heads. A few years ago, we landed a 28-pounds-plus King on a J-Plug off the ledge.

The Skippers Meeting will be at 5:00 a.m. at the K. of C. Pavilion just west of the D.N.R. ramp, with a 6:00 a.m. tournament start. Remember, we no longer do shotgun starts. You can run out to your spot after the meeting, but don't begin setting lines until 6:00 a.m. Fish Calls will be at 9:00 a.m. and noon on Channel 72, with lines to be pulled at 2:00 p.m. Plan to be at the weigh-in at the K. of C. Pavilion by 4:00 p.m. Hot dogs and pop will be available during the weigh-in ceremonies.

Good luck to everyone--I hope to see you all there!

– Joe von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"
 Manistee Port Captain
 (586) 293-7688 (home)
 (586) 945-9334 (mobile)

Useful GPS Longitude/Latitude Tips

Here are some tips you may find helpful when using your GPS or LORAN unit. First, some basics: "ddd" equals degrees of latitude or longitude, "mm" equals minutes (60), and "ss" equals seconds (60). Some GPS and LORAN units may give the last number as a decimal from 1-100.

Degrees do not change very often because one degree equals 60 nautical miles, not very useful to we fishermen. Minutes of longitude are one nautical mile apart at the equator, and they get closer as the lines converge at the poles. So, using the minutes, or middle numbers, two fishermen can get within one nautical mile of each other.

We often hear this question: "What's your Top Number?," used to get a north/south location. The middle two numbers of the latitude, or north line, of a GPS or LORAN is the 'Top Number'.

Thus, if N 41.27.19 is your location, 27 is your Top Number. This is an excellent

way of giving other boats your location over the radio. If I'm at N 44.56.55, and another boat tells me he's doing well at N 44.53.25, I know I'm a little over three nautical miles north of his location.

Here's another example. If I'm still at N 44.56.55 and another boat tells me his Top Number is 02, I know I'm about six nautical miles south of him. How do I know this? As I troll north to him, my Top Number will increase, from 56, 57, 58, 59, 00, 01, 02.

We also hear "What's your Bottom Number?," used to get an east/west location. The middle two numbers of the longitude, or west, line of a GPS or LORAN is the Bottom Number.

To get an exact location, we ask, "What are your Numbers?" If someone is located at N 44.5.22 and W 86-33.00, then their Numbers are 55 and 33. Always give the north number first. I hope this helps.

– Joe von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"

The **DEADLINE** for the **AUGUST ISSUE** of **FISHIN' TALES** is **JULY 29, 2003**

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren
JULY 29, 2003 • **AUGUST 26, 2003** • **SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	TOURNAMENT PORT CAPTAIN
Aug. 2	LUDINGTON (Ladies Day)	Dave Even, (734) 981-2236 & Bob Mitchell
Aug. 9	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034 & Dave Even
Aug. 23	MANISTEE	Joe Von Grabe, (586) 293-7688
Sept. 6	PORT SANILAC	Chris Nytko, (586) 786-0288

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Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



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