

# Fishin' Tales

March 2002  
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[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com)



## Inside this Issue

- 1** March Swap Meet  
Sportsmens Dinner  
River Crab
- 2** Coming Events  
Check your Label!  
Spring Tactics
- 3** President's Message
- 4** April Meeting Change of  
location!!!!  
\$140 member drawing.

## MARCH 26 MEETING SWAP MEET NIGHT

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.

## SPORTSMEN'S DINNER – A SUCCESS!!!!

Our third annual Sportsman's Dinner, held on March 9, 2002, was a huge success. It was the largest fundraiser in our clubs 28 year history. The food, with 5 entrees, was excellent, even better than last year. We had over 300 people enjoying this evenings excitement. There were 11 happy winners of guns and 90 winners of other fabulous prizes. The new format for the raffles was a big plus.

The Board of Directors thanks all who attended and helped make this an outstanding event to remember. We especially thank those members who helped sell tickets and raise donations. While the list of people who

helped is quite long, several deserve recognition. These include Steve Hamilton, Don Redmond, Mark Bevins, Rob Golaszeswki, Bill Nutting, Tom Moores, Doug Karakas, and Rick Vander Meiden.

We corrected the few problems we had last year. The sound system worked well. We removed 4 tables and eliminated the crowding problem. Air quality was good. Entry and initial seating was greatly improved. Bar lines were not a problem.

The Board has decided to hold our fourth annual Sportsman's Dinner at the same location on the same Saturday in 2003. We will be working hard to continue making improvements and raise increased funds to help us promote and protect our Great Lakes sport fishery. With your help we can make this happen!

## RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament and raffle featuring the return of Slippery Charlie takes place on April 27. This will also be the first DAS tournament of the 2002 season.

The Bluewater Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic of Port Huron and the C.A. Muer Corporation (River Crab Restaurant) are co-sponsors of the tournament. Proceeds are donated to the Blue Water Clinic and seven other child abuse/neglect agencies throughout Michigan.

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

# COMING EVENTS

## MEMBER MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 26, SWAP NIGHT -bring your stuff!

Tuesday, April 23 Date & Location change!

Tuesday, May 28  
Tuesday, June 25

## BOAT TOURNAMENTS

River Crab	April 27
St. Joe	May 4
Grand Haven	May 18-19
Port Austin	June 1-2
Special People	June 15
Harbor Beach	June 29
Erieau outing	July 13
Ludington-Ladies	July 27
Ludington	August 10
Manistee	August 24
Frankfort	September 7

Again this year, there is a \$5,000 prize for the club with the heaviest catch. The Board of Directors would like to see all of our club members try to participate in this tournament.

Tournament Chairman Mark Bevens announced that the DAS Board has approved a special incentive for our club participants. IF the DAS wins the \$5,000 club prize we will have a special drawing among all of the boats that weighed in at least one legal fish. One Boat will win \$1,000; one will win \$500 and one \$250. In addition, there will be a drawing for \$100 for a boat that participated, that did not weigh in a fish. If we don't win the \$5,000 club prize, one boat that weighed in a fish will be drawn for \$100.

Let's make this tournament the number one tournament on your schedule and help the club win

the \$5,000 and some skipper \$1,000.

A \$10 entry ticket includes your individual entry fee and a raffle ticket. Remember your \$10 entry is good for \$10 off at select Chuck Muer restaurants. Dinner tickets will be available at the meeting. For any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact: Mark Bevens (586) 779-3189.

## 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.

## 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 might be the mouths of creeks or warm water discharges from power plants. 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 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 works.

Have a few big lip Bombers to vary the depth of your lures to get them where the fish are. At times, the big lips will out perform regular lures. (continued on 4)

## Book a Charter

Want to take a great fishing trip and learn a few tricks of the trade? Book a charter with one of the skippers from the Game Dinner. See Mark Stosiak or Rick Vander Meiden at the meeting.

## President's Message

It's almost over! Now that February is behind us Spring is closing in fast. It's time to make plans to bring the boat home and get out the checklist and get it ship shape for the first launch. That can now be counted in days and not months. Good riddance winter! I hope not to see the likes of you for a very long time to come.

I don't know about you but even though I know the time has come to get out the gear and start getting it ready, I'm procrastinating! Why? There are reels to be reloaded with fresh line, rods to be examined and possibly fixed or replaced and my electronics are just waiting for the first time I really need them to bite me in the as I was saying, why am I procrastinating? I'll get it done, really!

With February behind us, so to is another Dinner Dance. I had a great time on February 16<sup>th</sup>. It was well worth the price of admission to be among good friends and to enjoy the music and the antics of the brave souls who entered what became known as the 'strutting' contest. All the guys who entered put on a heck of a show but in the end it was our own past President Ray 'The Dancing Queen' Banbury (he's going to kill me for that one) who wowed the crowd with his dance floor moves. The last time I was able to move like that I believe my 'fro' was on fire. I want to thank all of you who attended the dance and those of you who donated your time and/or goods for the

cause. Mary Karakas once again did one heck of a nice job putting together this event.

By the time this is published the 2002 Sportsmen's Game Dinner will have been held. Although a few tickets are reportedly left as this is being written, I'm optimistic that it will be another sell-out.

Over the years this club has held one function or another to raise funds for the various programs we support. In years past we had our Spring Show. That was a great time but with the arrival of the big shows in Pontiac and Auburn Hills to name a few, attendance and vendor participation went down and the show for us was no longer a viable money-maker. We tried other ways to raise funds. Our Vegas Nights did okay the first two years but with the arrival of the Casinos in Windsor and then Detroit that killed that function for us. Now we have the game dinner. Having attended many such dinners over the years and our own the past two years I for one think we have a winner here. Steve Hamilton has done an excellent job, with the help of many, to make this annual event one that many members and non-members alike look forward to each year. I hope we can keep the tradition going. The more successful we are with these fundraisers the more we can do as a club to support our fisheries, fisheries projects and programs. Thanks to all that attended the Dinner and I hope we'll see you next year.

This month we have Captain Willis Kerridge from Thunder Duck Sportfishing Charters in as our guest speaker. Captain Willis charters from the Grand Haven area on Lake Michigan. There will be a lot of good information coming from his talk and demonstration of some of the gear he uses on his boat. Also, the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting is our

annual Swap Night meeting. If you've got gear you no longer use or need bring it down and see if someone else needs what you have. You might find something you've been looking for as well. The doors will open at 7:00 P.M. for those of you who want to set up and sell, or browse what's available.

Last month I said it was about 70 days to launch. Now you can count it in a small number of weeks or days. I hope the majority of you are making plans to attend the River Crab Tournament on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Our membership is up and it would be nice to have a record number of boats fishing for the club this year! Remember to contact Don Redmond for entry forms, etc. And don't forget that our April meeting will be held one week early (Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>) and at a different location (Fr. Kramer Knights of Columbus Hall) from our regular meeting location. The information will be listed here in the Fishing Tales and on our web site.

Keep those hooks sharp! We'll see you at the meeting!

Ed Wilczek, President  
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

### **TOMORROW'S DREAM** Sportfishing Charters

Salmon & Trout  
25 ft Pursuit

Capt. Mark Stosiak  
21084 LaSalle  
Warren, Mi. 48089

(586) 777-9833  
(810) 335-0599

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 when a big king hits. Remove the rubber core before you go fishing and lightly file 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 boat as you can.

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Minnow baits or spoons are good choices for these, too.

Be flexible, listen to the fish and they will tell what they want. Spring fishing can be the best of the year! Bob Mitchell -Kemo

### IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE:

Due to a scheduling problem, next month's April 2002 membership meeting will be one week early and in a different location! It will be held on Tuesday, the **23rd of April** at the Fr. Kramer Council, Knights of Columbus hall located at 7400 Bernice Avenue in **Center Line**. This is the same location that our April 2001 meeting was held.

Please note: This meeting is also being held one week early! The hall is on Bernice which is approximately one half mile south of the I-696 Ruther Freeway and one half block west of Van Dyke (M-53). Exit I-696 at Van Dyke and go SOUTH then turn right on

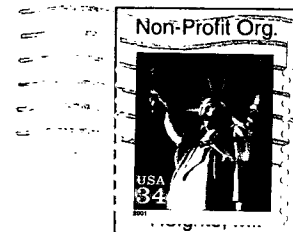
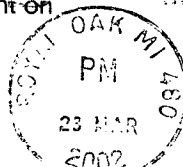
to Bernice (There is a traffic light at Van Dyke and Bernice). The hall is on the south side of Bernice and the entrance is in the front. This is an important meeting just before the River Crab. Tell your friends and crew!

### \$140 DRAWING

It may have been the snowstorm; it may have been a hot date with a feisty Steelhead in the St. Clair River. Whatever the reason, Greg Zaccardelli did not attend the February meeting. Wouldn't you know it, his name was drawn in the every member drawing.

This monster just keeps growing and at the March meeting some lucky member just may walk away with a cool \$140.00. That's the amount currently in our 'Every Member Drawing'.

If you're a current member in attendance at the March meeting and we draw your name you'll take home the \$140.00. There's another 140 reasons why you'll want to be at the March meeting!



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

