

APRIL 23 MEETING!

Location Changed!

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Check your label



APRIL 23 MEETING IN CENTERLINE

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

This is also the last meeting before the River Crab Tournament. Please check your label to insure your membership is current if you want to fish this tournament. There will be plenty of last minute information for skippers and crew.

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament and raffle 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.

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 Bevins announced that the DAS Board has approved a special incentive for our club participants. If the club wins the \$5,000 club prize at the River Crab, we will draw 5 names from club members who participated in the River Crab and weighed in fish. Each will win a \$100.00 cash prize.

If we do not win the club prize then only 1 - \$100.00 prize will be drawn.

Let's make this tournament the number one tournament on your schedule and help the club win the \$5,000 and five skippers \$100. (Cont. page 2)

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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.

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

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

Correction

The March newsletter incorrectly reported the details of the special drawing in the River Crab event.

The correction is: If the club wins the \$5,000 club prize at the RC we will draw 5 names from club members who participated in the RC and weighed in fish and they will each win \$100. If we do not win the club prize then only 1 - \$100 prize will be drawn.

President's Message

To this club he was a giant, not by his physical stature, but in every possible good sense of the word. On Sunday April 06, 2002 the call came early in the morning that Past President and current Director Don Redmond had passed away in his sleep.

There is not much that I personally can say about Don that those of us who have known him over the years don't already know. Don was a friend to just about every member of this club.

For those who didn't know him yet, believe me; after a short time you would have, and you'd know what I'm trying to convey here.

When I first joined this club some 13 plus years ago I took part as much as possible in volunteering to work club functions. You get to know people when you work hand in hand for the same goals. While working the Spring Fishing show we used to put on years ago I noticed that there were certain people that things seemed to, for lack of a better word, gravitate around. Don was one of those people. I also noticed that he was a 'whirlwind', always on the move. In his own way Don took me under his wing and showed me the ropes as it were. Through him I had the honor of meeting some of the people I knew previously only through their articles or television shows. Don had this way about him, once you met him and talked with him he made an impression on you and you remembered him the next time you crossed paths. There is a handful of people in this club that I can say pretty much the same about but Don was somewhat unique.

The fact that I can say I was able to call Don a friend comes from the many personal stories that have been told and retold through the years. A group of us started to faithfully attend the Alpena Brown Trout Festival each July. One year stands out. Myself, Dick Jackson, Bob Buero, Mike Walkulski, Don, and other club members were stationed up at Partridge Point Marina. Doug Karakas was due in for the final weekend and arrived very early

{1:30 A.M.} on a Saturday morning. After almost launching his boat over a sea wall in to a service well he thought was the boat launch Doug finally got in to a slip and set up. He and Mary turned in around 2:45 and fell asleep. At 4:30 sharp a loud rapping came on the window of the van. "Are you gonna' sleep or you gonna' fish?" Don bellowed out, rousting Doug and Mary from a much-needed sleep. Ironically, a short time later Doug and Mary departed their dock and sailed past Don who was standing on his dock waiting for Dick Jackson to finish making breakfast. "Are you gonna' eat or you gonna' fish" Doug asked a very frustrated Don. From that day forward we lovingly referred to Don as the Port Captain from hell. And there are a thousand such stories about the man.

Don was always up front and center. He was currently chairing the DAS's River Crab Tournament committee. He was in charge of the raffles we have each month. In the past Don headed up the Special People outing and the kids that fished with him on the Trena Dawn loved Don. Who wouldn't? Don put his heart and soul in to this club. He was a leader in promoting our functions and special events. Each year he would donate a special item his Mother made to the raffle at the Dinner Dance. All this and so much more.

And we haven't even touched upon his love for fishing, hunting and everything outdoors. There are a large number of Trout and Salmon in the Great Lakes that are much safer now.

Their gain is our loss. Don, you will be greatly missed and always remembered.

Ed Wilczek, President
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

Fishin' the Crab

Those who have fished past River Crab tournaments know that there are several tried and true places that can produce big catches. That's not to say that the fish have also read this article and plan to be there, but keep your ears open and when you hear places mentioned it will help formulate that winning plan.

The two basic ports to launch from are Sanilac and Lexington. Fishing action will take place from Lakeport State Park to the South all the way to Forestville, 16 1/2 miles North of Sanilac.

It is amazing that year after year the best catches seem to come from a couple of consistent places. These places often have a common theme. They have major creeks that dump into Lake Huron. Check out the creeks and you stand a good chance of having a great day.

When these creeks are running they dump warm water into the lake attracting baitfish and predators (read salmon). Many of these creeks are also the focus of smelt runs. A late night check of the smelt fishermen can clue you to a really hot spot.

Rather than just running North or South, input some way points for a couple of creeks and give them a shot. When you get there look for a temperature or color change. Even if a change isn't obvious, check out the area.

Along with this article are the lat/longs for a number of places you may want to try. The lat/longs for Ports are for the

general location of the buoys off these ports. Remember "GENERAL". Don't run into a pier or rock pile in the fog following general lat/longs. Lat/longs for creeks are about 1/2 mile offshore, directly east of the creek. Also remember that the shore does not run exactly North and South.

Trolling Season

The 2002 season is approaching rapidly. Like last year I'm looking forward to another safe and successful season. Last year was without a major incident and I'm hoping this year will be the same. I'm hoping we avoid the minor incidents too, like launching our boats on road signs. We will be visiting some great

Entrance to St Clair River
N43.06007 W82.41780

Lexington Buoy
N43.26681 W82.52281

Sanilac Buoy
N43.43017 W82.53474

Harbor Beach Buoy
N43.84509 W82.63190

CREEKS

Cherry Creek (6 miles N of Sanilac)
N43.51421 W82.56091

Forester Creek (4.8 miles N. of Sanilac)
N43.49773 W82.55553

Trailer Park/Liens Creek (.5 N of Sanilac)
N43.43658 W82.52920

Camp Cavelle (6.9 miles S. of Sanilac; 4.5 miles N. of Lexington)
N43.33162 W82.51977

Lakeport State Park (10 miles S. of Lexington)
N43.11770 W82.48046

ports at the best time of the year. I know myself I'm looking forward to the Grand Haven and the Ludington Tournaments, two of my favorite ports. I'm sure the Ladies are anxiously awaiting Ludington. Hopefully they will be battling large Kings this year.

Not much will change from last year. I have been thinking about discontinuing shot gun starts. In the past I have noticed several close calls at the pier heads. One of them I was involved in myself. We all like the competition but I'm sure we all like to be safe also.

Our tournaments run on the honor system and I'm sure this will extend to going to your fishing spot and waiting for the start of the tournament on the radio before we put in lines.

I hope to see everyone on the water this year. Mark Bevans
Vice President, Trolling Director

GRAND HAVEN TOURNY

It is set; we are going to Grand Haven on May 18-19. The Grand Haven State run Marina is located on the Grand River two blocks from the Downtown and a short walk to Chinook Pier. The Marina Phone number is (616) 847-3478. It may be a good idea to call the G.H. Chamber of commerce at (616) 842-4910 or (616) 842-4499 or (800) 303-4096 for a complete listing of all the services available in the area. We should have maps to the launch, Marina and Park along with the times and details about the Tournament at the April meeting.

Do some research, check the reports, visit the detroitsteelheaders.org web sites and be ready for some great fishing at Grand Haven on May 18-19. If you have any questions feel free to call Port Captain Stan Bilek at (248) 828-4159

St Joe Tournament

The second tournament of the year will take place in St. Joe on May 4. There have been fantastic DAS tournaments held here in the past. In fact, some years the St Joe tournament ended up with the largest total catch of the year.

This is a typical spring fishery. The targeted species are cohos and kings. If you happen upon a school of spring cohos the fishing can be as fast as you have ever had.

Baits and setup are similar to what is used at the River Crab. Start out with body baits such as long A Bombers or Rapalas. Mix in some spoons and you should do well.

The general hot spot is South of the river mouth off the Cook nuclear plant. Some boats will run right in the warm water discharge. Be extremely careful in this area as there are rock piles and the depth varies a lot. Expect to lose gear if you get

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

too close. Other areas to try include the color line where the river water meets the clean lake water, the chalets and the "junk cars" south of the harbor. For more info. Call Port Captain: Doug Karakas (248) 545-1181 or see him at the meeting.

DON REDMOND

On Sunday April 7, 2002 The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. lost one of its own in the passing of Past President and current Director Don Redmond.

Don was a member of the DAS for many years and was very active, participating in club tournaments in his boat the 'Trena Dawn'. Don's participation didn't stop there. As a member of the club's Board of Directors Don took an active part in working behind the scenes as well.

Over many years, Don served as the club President, as the Committee head for the club's annual 'Special People' outing, *{the club takes out a large group of developmentally disabled*

children and adults for a day of Walleye fishing on Lake Erie}, as Chairman

of the Boat Trolling Committee and many other positions on club committees. Don was currently working as the club liaison for the upcoming Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament, taking place later this month.

His wife Betty, two stepdaughters, four brothers and three sisters survive Don, who was 57 years old at the time of his death. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the members of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. As a club member he was one of those very special people who were always front and center and his shoes will be hard to fill.

Don was employed as a toolmaker at Reife Carbide Tool in Warren. Along with his love for fishing Don was also an avid hunter and outdoorsman.



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