

May 2002
Volume XXVI, Issue 5

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



MAY MEETING

The May regular member meeting will return to the St. Pius K of C. Our scheduled speaker is Don Miller who will talk about Lake St Clair fishing opportunities for musky.

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament took place on April 27. This was the first DAS tournament of the 2002 season. Unfortunately the dreaded Blue Water Sportfishing Club again walked away with the first prize.

The Blue Water Sport Fishing Club weighed in 300 more pounds of salmon than did the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Blue Water had 72 boats entered versus 58 for Detroit. Thirty-seven Detroit boats caught fish. Top finishing boats will be announced at the meeting.

As previously announced, one skipper's name will be drawn from the boats who weighed in at least one fish in the tournament. That lucky skipper will win \$100. Thanks for everyone who participated in this worthy event.

Mark Bevens

SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING - June 15

For many years Skippers from the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. have participated in a day set aside to give developmentally disabled children and adults an opportunity to enjoy a day of fishing and fun. This year's event will again take place at Toledo Beach Marina on June 15.

The day begins at the morning meeting where the Skippers are paired up with their special guests. The real (or should I say REEL) fun begins when the new crews step aboard the boats. It's off to the fishing grounds to find some Walleye. The radio chatter picks up as joyful kids start to bring their first fish on board. You can only imagine how it feels to be a part of one of these special kids catching a prized Walleye.

The time on the water passes fast. It's time to head back to shore. "Awwwww, do we have to?"

But then there's more fun coming up at the picnic, where fishing stories grow bigger than the fish that are in them. There's so much to do! There's food to eat, trophies to award, special guests and at the end a bag of fish ready to be taken home to cook. The question is who enjoyed their day more, the Special People or the Skippers who have their own stories to tell? It's the stuff that great fishing memories are made of.

If you have never participated in this event, let me assure you that you have been missing one of the greatest joys of the fishing year. You will especially realize this when one of the little ones comes up to you at the end of the day and gives you a big hug and says Thank You for a Special day in their life. Please join us to make it happen.
Dog Karakas (248) 545-1181

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 Ladies Day 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 on the back page. Regular memberships are still \$25, senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

A Spring Day In St. Joe

May 4th found the Detroit Steelheaders in St. Joseph for another springtime tournament. St. Joe has always held a golden egg out for our fishermen with hopes of spring coho, migrating king salmon hungry browns and steelhead re-energized from their spring spawning.

Friday afternoon we found the lake starting to lay down from a firm northwest blow. Some of the boats fished the late afternoon on Friday straight out and a little south following the color break in the water. There were fish present and a pattern was forming; spoons and body baits with some white - wonderbread, clown, yellowfin, etc. Fish were taken 19', 24', to 40' down and some on yellow birds. (Ah, what pattern?)

Saturday morning found a nip in the air at the captain's meeting but a promise of a great day with forecast of a sunny day and a shift in the wind from the south.

We did away with the shotgun start allowing boats to leave the pier at 6:15 and were on the honor system to start setting lines at 6:30. This was done for safety reasons to avoid the congestion at dawn at the mouth of the river. (Skippers - Please let tournament director Mark Bevans know how you liked this new rule.)

The 9:00 fish call found most boats with 1 -3 fish but no one was running away with the lead. The weather continued to improve with warmer temperatures and waters calming. By the noon fish call, the lake was perfect for fishing (just like Doug ordered); only a little chop. The noon call also revealed that two boats had increased their catch to 6 fish with most 2-4 fish.

The tournament was called at 2:30. All boats reported in at the pier heads according to tournament rules and headed to the weigh-in site.

The weigh-in went along with the usual kidding and ribbing (no escapes the wrath of Doggie). When the smoke cleared and the results were tallied, Captain Hook had captured first place and locked the big fish of the tournament. Golden Oldie had second place. Captain Howard York only had one mate on board so they only weighed in 7 fish. Doug Karakas.

Skipper of the Year Standing

(unofficial through three tournaments)

- 1 2 Doug Karakas
- 2 4 Mark Bevans
- 3 4 Bill Dunk
- 4 14 Bob Paradise
- 5 15 Chris Nytko
- 6 16 Mike Vigus
- 7 20 Ed Hill
- 8 21 Joe Von Grabe
- 9 23 Terminator
- 10 25 Howard York

(Top 2 finishes)

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 28, 2002

Tuesday, June 25

Tuesday, July 30

Tuesday, August 27

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

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

"The Headhunter"

Cut Bait & Accessories

Bait Heads

Rigged \$5.00 each or 5/\$20.00
 Unrigged \$2.00 each or 6/\$10.00

Bait

Whole Anchovies Regular price \$5.50
 (Trays of 12)
 \$4.50 each 3/\$12.00 10/\$30.00

SUPER SHOW SPECIAL

11" Hot Spot Flashers Regular price \$11.00 each
 3/ \$20.00

Contact Club Member - Captain Keith Kempainen
 248-548-1166

CREWS HOTLINE

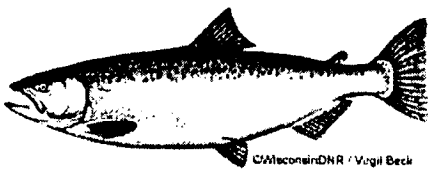
Looking to go fishing and either don't have a boat or you need a crew? Call the Crews Hotline! Put your name on the list as a potential crewmember or skipper in need.

Call the number to then get names of people who say they are looking for a ride. It's a great way to learn to fish from an experienced skipper and to meet new friends. If you do get a permanent ride please call back and take your name off the list to avoid unnecessary calls.

- Joe Von Grabe (586) 293-7688
- Doug Karakas (248) 545-1181
- Stan Bilek (248) 828-4159

2002 PHOTO CONTEST

The Board of Directors has announced that the club will again have a photo contest in 2002. Please submit your photos to Ray Banbury or one of the other directors. The final winner will be announced at the December Christmas meeting and as in the past the list of prizes will be commensurate with the number and quality of entries. Remember photos are a key part of our newsletters and our new web site. They are also the best way to capture memories. Always keep a disposable camera on board to catch the smile when bruiser shows up!



PORT AUSTIN TOURNAMENT

The weekend of June 1-2 will see the Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing out of Port Austin.

Lake Trout will probably be the prime catch. Try N/E of the lighthouse (about 5 - 7 miles) in 75 to 100' of water. This will put you on top of the Grindstone reef. Staying as close to bottom as possible will produce lakers. Good baits include P-nuts, Spin-n-gloves, or Wobble glows with cowbells or chrome dodgers. Anything in green or chartreuse should produce. The key to lakers is a s-l-o-w presentation; speed of 1-1.8 knots

If you are going to bounce bottom, consider using breakoff weights to save your cannonballs and downriggers. Better yet don't bounce bottom. Station a crewmember by each downrigger. Tell them to let it down till it touches bottom and then quickly bring it up 2 or 3 feet. Watch the 'rigger arm and bring it up again if it touches bottom. Every five minutes repeat this process. It is a lot of work, but it will also pay off.

Dodger / squid setups run 5'-10' off bottom may also produce kings. Speaking of Kings, keep your ears open. Some years there are lots of Kings in the area. If the Kings are there, they can be the fish to target; at least at first light. Look for them straight out of port in deep water or by the "junk pile". Spoons, 25 - 50 feet down will be the presentation of choice.

If you've never fished at Port Austin, follow the green cans out past the lighthouse before heading East. Do not cut between the lighthouse and shore. The lighthouse marks a reef that extends all the way to shore.

For a good margin of safety, it's a good idea on your way out to put your LORAN or GPS co-ordinates, first at the port entrance, then at the can going out and finally at the can past the lighthouse going out. This will get you past the reef and the lighthouse from anywhere on the lake if rain or fog rolls in where you can't see the lighthouse or shore.

The skippers meeting will take place at 5am on Saturday next to the DNR launch ramp. Starting time is 6 am. Fish calls at 9 and 12 with lines pulled at 2 PM. and weigh-in at 3pm.

We will have a team doubles tournament on Sunday for skippers who are staying over. Team assignments (first place finisher on Saturday paired with last, second with next to last, etc.) will be made at the weigh-in on Saturday. Good luck to everyone. See you at the docks. See Bill Dunk or Joe Von Grabe

Tournament Tips

Attention to detail is one of the roads to success in tournaments. Top skippers know that it is the small things that will make a difference. Think of the last few tournaments you fished in. How many places would you have improved if you caught one more fish? Attention to detail can provide that fish.

The first detail is your terminal tackle. Are you relying on last year's line? It is strong enough to catch a 5 lb. Laker, but what about a 20+ lb. King? How about your add-a-lines? New line or old. Always cut off about 10 feet or so of main line before the tournament and re-tie your knots. A little nick is all it takes to lose that one fish.

Hooks must be sharp. A dull hook will result in 3 for 10. A sharp hook will get you to 5 for 10 or 6 for 10. Keep a file by your transom and sharpen each hook before it goes down. Pick out a lure, sharpen the hook, then pull the line. Swivel snaps wear out and break. An old or cheap snap will open up losing your big king and a \$4 spoon.

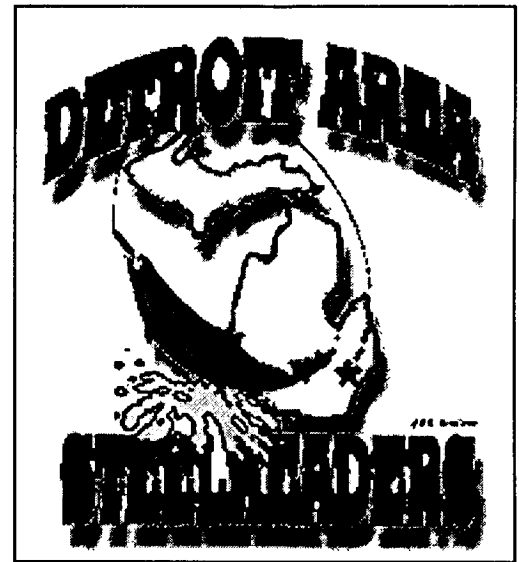
Detail also means knowing where your baits are running. If a fish hits, you want to be able to repeat that success. Nothing is more frustrating that catching a big fish, asking, "how deep was the 'rigger?" and getting an "I don't remember". If your crew can't remember, write it down; downrigger #, lure, color, depth, set back, etc.

Keep a log of all the fish you catch. The data mentioned above plus depth of water, speed, species and size. Many times, what you think is happening will not be supported by your logs. The log will also assist you in quickly establishing a pattern for success. Many times the lures fish prefer in the morning are different than what they want at noontime. And often, that same change in preference will repeat several days in a row. Day two, a quick change based on your log can eliminate that one-hour of dead time

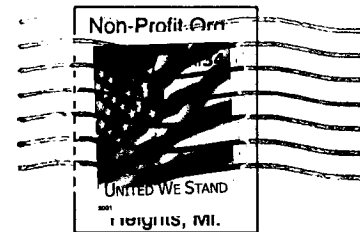
while you try to figure out what to do.

Another detail is to know exactly where you were when the fish struck. Not just the waypoint which is the most important aspect, but also other details that may lead you to other clues to repeating success. These other details might include the direction you were trolling, the presence of baitfish just before the strike, a ridge or drop-off, a change in surface temperature, etc.

I guarantee you that attention to detail is one of the key separators of the top skippers from the middle of the pack. Attention to detail will make you a more successful fisherman. It will eliminate frustration. Most importantly, it will put fish in the box. KEMO



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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