



# FISHING TALES



## Ladies Day at Ludington turned out fine!

This year's Ladies Day tournament marked our return to Ludington and Lake Michigan for this popular annual event after an absence of several years. Over the past few years this tournament has been held at various ports on Lake Huron, but with the best fishing to be found on the "Gold Coast" these days, the ladies wanted in on the action.

In all, 25 boats made the tow to Ludington. The first thing Mother Nature did was to send a couple of doozy thunderstorms through town to rile up the water. While the fishing had been great-to-fabulous in the days leading up to our tourney, the storms shut everything down, making the pre-tournament fishing on Friday unproductive to say the least. The forecast was for possible thunderstorms on Saturday, so everyone was holding their breaths.

At the Saturday morning Skippers meeting, there was a pretty good breeze out of the southwest and some fog on the lake. Fortunately, neither condition was bad enough to warrant a delay in the start, let alone a cancellation. The new "no shotgun start" was held



**CHRISNYTKO & HIS "AQUARIUS II" crew not only captured first place in the Ladies Day tourney, but also claimed first place in the Big Fish Pool with this beautiful King!**

promptly at 6:00 a.m., and most skippers once again agreed that this is the right way, and the safe way, to go. Some boats headed south to the Project, while others ran north to the Bathroom and The Point. No one knew exactly where the fish were, and who would turn out to have made the right moves.

At the 8:00 a.m. Fish Call, several boats indicated that they had found some action. Most of it was to the north, no big surprise there. But it was surprising that it was not in close, as has come to be the expected pattern here, but in 100'-200' of water. Chris Nytko, skippering "Aquarius II," and Dick Shirk aboard "Lil' Scratch," each reported four fish in to set the early pace.

Fog limited visibility to about one mile, so it was virtually impossible to see exactly where everyone was fishing. The hot setup seemed to be Dipsy Divers, and lead core, while the words "Hoochey Mama" seemed to be heard often. To the south, there were a few reports of some big fish off the Project, but numbers seemed to be lacking.

At the 11:00 a.m. Fish Call, it was obvious that the fishing had slowed from the early pace. Most boats increased their catch by only one or two fish, and several only cleaned baits.

The tale of the scale at the weigh-in revealed that an early fast start was the key to ultimate success. Only one boat, "Aquarius II and Chris Nytko," managed to bring a maxi-

mum eight-fish catch to the scale. That was enough to assure a second consecutive tournament win to Chris and his crew.

Second place went to a rookie boat, "Empty Box" skippered by new club member Robert Parker, with a very nice catch, including the third-largest fish in the tournament. Finishing third was veteran skipper Dick Shirk and the "Lil' Scratch" crew. Congratulations to all three skippers and their crews!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders showed that they are good at more than fishing. For the post-fishing picnic, tournament chairman Dave Even had arranged for a barbecued roast pig, rather than the usual 'dogs. In addition, crews had been asked to bring a favorite dish to pass. Let me tell you, the eating was just great... too bad the Kings weren't quite as hungry as all the skippers and crews were!!

Between mouthfuls, Boat Trolling Tournament director Mark Bevans commented, "Everyone I talked to had a good time. The fishing could have been better, but that's why we call it fishing and not catching. Hopefully, the fish will be settled down in two weeks [when the Detroit Area Steelheaders fleet returns to Ludington for another tournament there]."

Special thanks go to Dave Even and his "Teacher's Pet" crew for getting the pig and handling all the arrangements for the very successful pig barbecue.

- Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

### By-Laws changes to be voted at August meeting

The Board of Directors of the Detroit Area Steelheaders has been working on updating our club's By-Laws. This is the first real upgrade in the 28-year history of the club. Look for a special mailing in the next few days, detailing the eleven changes proposed for the By-Laws.

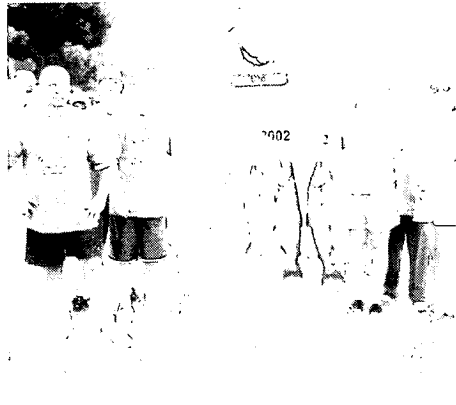
At the August meeting, you will be asked to identify yourself as a member, and will then be given a ballot to complete. You can vote to approve all or none of the amendments at one time by checking one box, or, if you chose, you can vote singly, amendment by amendment. The votes will be tallied at the meeting.

Any questions you may have can be addressed by any member of the Board. Be sure to attend the August meeting and cast your vote - it's your club!

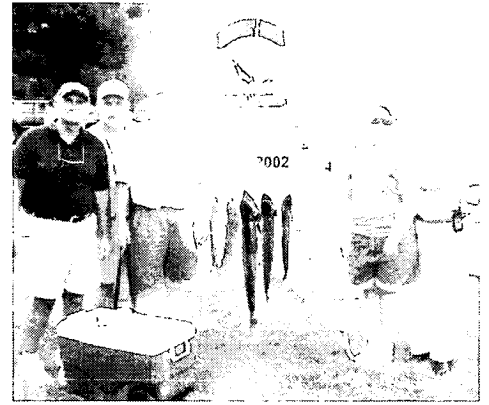
# Top Ladies Day Tournament Finishers



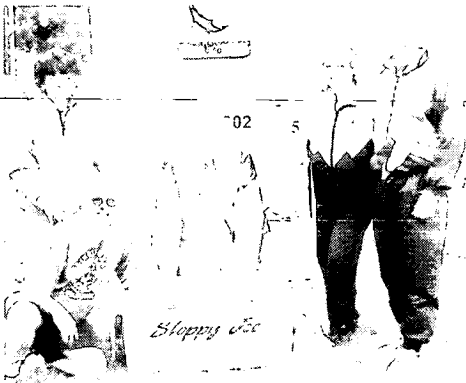
1st Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Chris Nytko and crew.



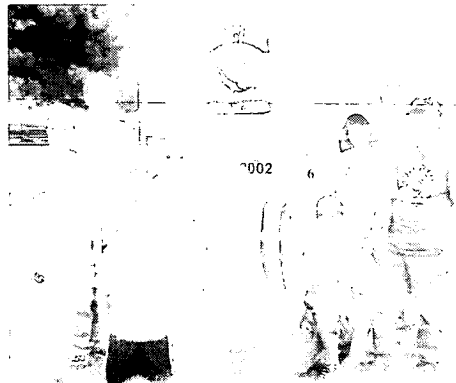
2nd Place: "EMPTY BOX" with Robert Parker and crew.



4th Place: "DREDGE" with Ed Hill and crew.



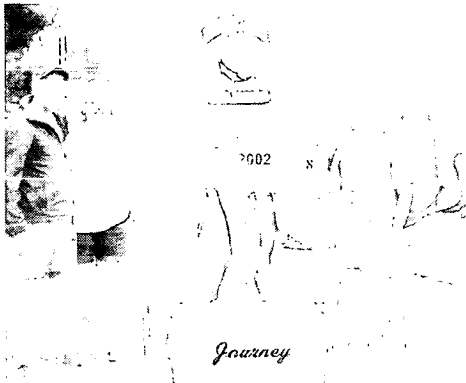
5th Place: "SLOPPY JOE" with Joe Von Grabe and crew.



6th Place: "BLUE STAR" with Stan Bilek and crew.



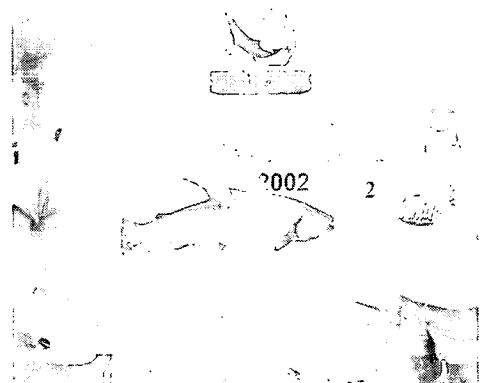
7th Place: "MOLLY FRAIR" with Ron Hartman and crew.



8th Place: "JOURNEY" with Tim Graskiewicz and crew.



9th Place: "TRIP-N-DIPSY" with Dean Meyers and crew.



THIS KING tipped the scale at 20 lb., 9 oz., good for second place in the Big Fish Pool.

## LADIES DAY TOURNAMENT RESULTS (July 27, 2002)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko) .....	103.08
2) EMPTY BOX (Robert Parker) .....	82.10
3) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk) .....	66.09
4) DREDGE (Ed Hill) .....	63.04
5) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe) .....	56.10
6) BLUE STAR (Stan Bilek) .....	51.15
7) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman) .....	45.12
8) JOURNEY (Tim Graskiewicz) .....	45.09
9) TRIP-N-DIPSY (Dean Meyers) .....	37.12
10) CAPIAS (Mike Lehto) .....	34.12
11) KEMO (Bob Mitchell) .....	32.04
12) TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even) .....	29.04

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
13) PISCES (Bob Mendicki) .....	27.07
14) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones) .....	23.12
15) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar) .....	21.05
16) COWABUNGA (Chris Schwark) .....	20.15
17) NAUTI-BUOY (Greg Zaccardelli) .....	20.09
18) REEL ALLURE (Bill Stanley) .....	18.09
19) VICKI'S SEACRET (Bob Feisel) .....	15.09
20) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus) .....	13.10
21) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans) .....	9.07
22) TYGER (Ty Voigt) .....	8.03
23) S.S. GUPPY (Dwayne Welder) .....	- 0 -

## BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT	
1) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II" .....	King Salmon, 23.09 pounds
2) Tim Graskiewicz, "Journey" .....	King Salmon, 20.09 pounds
3) Robert Parker, "Empty Box" .....	King Salmon, 19.15 pounds
. . . . .	
27 King Salmon • 19 Steelhead • 6 Lake Trout	
6 Brown Trout • 4 Coho Salmon	

# Top skippers share secrets at roundtable

At our July meeting, the top five captains in the 2002 "Skipper of the Year" race shared their secrets with club members. If you missed it, you missed your chance to hear some priceless information. As a former "Skipper of the Year" winner, I can say that these guys really know their stuff. What follows are some highlights of an outstanding presentation.

**Mark Bevans** started by illustrating the difference one fish can make in a tournament. At this year's Harbor Beach tourney, had the eventual sixth place boat caught just one more 15-pound fish, they would have won. Had they caught one less 15-pound fish, they would have finished in 13th place: 13th - 6th - 1st! Hence the importance of attention to detail and, thus, catching just one more fish. His suggestions included stripping off 10'-15' of

line before each tournament. This is the line section that takes the beating. Re-tie all knots and check swivels. Use quality swivels. Check the line guides once a month with a Q-tip to identify snags that could nick your line.

**Doug Karakas** focused on Dipsy Divers and especially the Slider Diver rig. Slider Divers allow you to get your bait away from the boat and out to the side, not unlike lead core line. Doug said he uses Trilene XT Solar on his Diver rods so he can see the line easily. When landing fish, Doug emphasized an old river fishing trick: Keep the fish in the water and don't make them jump and throw the lure. Doug said he points his rods toward the water when the fish is near the boat. He also backs off the drag in case the fish doesn't like nets, goes

**Chris Nytko** used his two recent wins as examples. He uses proven lures in which he has confidence and which have worked for him before, about a dozen top lures. He emphasized, "Find out what works for you and have enough confidence to stick with it." He also said to not take radio chatter as gospel. That guy going 2.0 may be talking knots rather than m.p.h.. No two boats read the same speed. When pre-tourney fishing, Chris said he doesn't pound a spot. When he catches a fish, he keeps moving, trying to find several way points to try in the tournament. He said he also watches for any sign on the water. A sign may be a slick, scum line, or a flock of sea gulls (which may be feeding on bait fish).

**Mike Vigus** also emphasized doing what works for you. He said he doesn't like to experiment on tournament day. Then, he sticks with proven baits. He believes speed is critical to success. He keeps a test rod with a lure on it so he can put it overboard to test lure action at his trolling speed. Mike likes Hoochies. He runs them 5'-10' feet behind the ball, or Dipsy and 18"-24" from Hooch to fly.

**Bill Dunk** is also a fly fisherman, and some of his techniques are derived from fly fishing theory. He pays attention to baits and wants them to look natural. For example, he ties flies with hair to catch air bubbles to look like real aquatic insects (something about a bald lab). Bill mentioned he runs lures closer to the boat than most. He finds he catches bigger fish closer to the boat compared to long leads. He said it works in the spring, too. Bill likes Dipsys, and runs four most of the time. Two use wire and two use fire line. He has been running Fish Catchers for some time. He reties all flies with 40-pound test Mason monofilament and finds that it stands up well. He also likes to run cut bait with a 30" lead behind a Fish Catcher off a drop weight. Like many before him, Bill also emphasized maintaining confidence in what you are doing. If it's worked before, it will probably work again.

So, there you have it. I hope you are as impressed with this wealth of information as I am. To me, it once again pointed out that we have the best fishermen in the state in our club. Thanks a million, guys!

- Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

## 2002 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(Standings through July 27, 2002 - Best 3)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1) CHRIS NYTKO	6	9	10	2	1	1				4
2) DOUG KARAKAS	4	1	1	75	10	75				6
3) MARK BEVANS	2	5	2	5	22	21				9
4) BILL DUNK	1	6	3	19	75	75				10
5) JOE VON GRABE	22	13	8	7	3	5				15
6) MIKE VIGUS	50	7	9	1	11	20				17
7) ED HILL	10	10	20	8	6	4				18
8) DICK SHIRK	13	75	14	12	8	3				23
9) STAN BILEK	50	75	75	18	5	6				29
10) BOB JONES	26	75	5	13	17	14				32
11) RON HARTMAN	50	75	6	21	24	7				34
11) DEAN MEYERS	25	75	18	75	7	9				34
11) TY VOIGT	75	75	13	9	12	22				34
14) BOB MENDICKI	75	75	19	6	21	13				38
15) HOWARD YORK	29	2	23	17	28	75				42
16) DAVE ROEHR	50	3	50	14	27	75				44
17) KEN KUJAR	50	50	21	11	25	15				47
18) BOB FEISEL	31	75	15	16	75	19				50
19) DAVE EVEN	36	75	4	75	75	12				52
20) BOB BUERO	33	4	22	75	75	75				59
21) RON MASCHKE	32	75	16	50	18	75				66
22) BILL NUTTING	50	14	75	3	75	75				67
23) MARK WILLIAMS	50	11	50	75	16	75				77
24) ED WILCZEK	50	75	75	22	14	75				86
25) BOB PARADISE	7	75	7	75	75	75				89
26) CHRIS SCHWARK	75	75	75	75	2	16				93
27) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	12	75	75	10	75	75				97
28) SKIP BERRY	75	12	11	75	75	75				98
29) MIKE LEHTO	16	75	75	75	75	10				101
30) ROB GOLASZEWSKI	18	75	75	75	9	75				102
31) DANNY COLOMBE	14	75	24	75	75	75				113
32) BOB KSIONZEK	24	75	75	15	75	75				114
33) GREG ZACCARDELLI	75	75	75	23	75	17				115
33) SCOTT ZASLONA	17	75	75	75	23	75				115
35) ROB PINSKEY	30	75	75	20	75	75				125
36) LOU BACSIKIN	3	75	75	50	75	75				128
37) DWAYNE WELDER	75	75	75	75	13	50				138

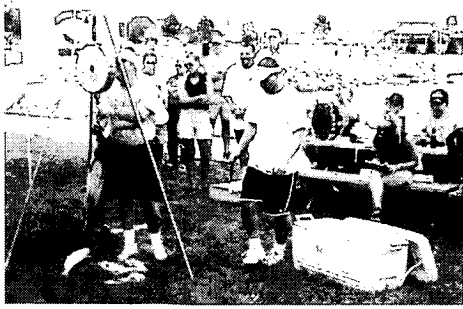
50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

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

**The DEADLINE**  
 for the  
**SEPTEMBER ISSUE**  
 of  
**FISHIN' TALES**  
 is  
**AUGUST 31, 2002**

# More Ladies Day Tourney Highlights



THE WEIGH-IN draws a lot of attention from skippers and crews.



A BIG FISH hitting the scale is always a tournament highlight!



AMOBILE PIG ROAST/BARBECUE PIT was something new at Ladies Day 2002.



THE BARBECUED PIG looked as good as it tasted!



SOME STEELHEADERS just couldn't wait to sample the barbecued pork!

## 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 match up with a Skipper looking for crew members, or to get crew members for your boat during the 2002 season. Contact:

- JOE VON GRABE: (810) 293-7688
- DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181
- STAN BILEK: (810) 244-4090

# Coming Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

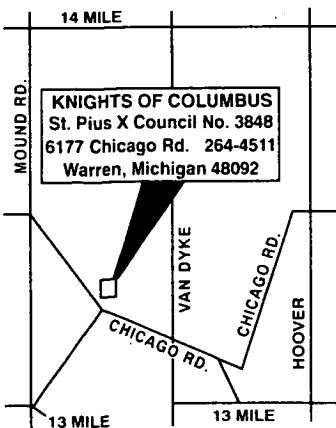
K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren

**AUGUST 27, 2002 • SEPTEMBER 24, 2002 • OCTOBER 29, 2002**

### BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

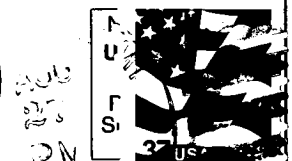
DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
August 24	MANISTEE	Ken Kuhar, (586) 598-8691
September 7	FRANKFORT	Bob Jones, (248) 486-5089

Here's how to get to  
**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER**  
Membership Meetings



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

*Address Correction Requested*



**DETROIT AREA**  
  
**STEELHEADERS**

**MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!**