

Fishin' Tales

May 2001
Volume XXV, Issue 5

www.detroitsteelheaders.com

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MAY MEETING

The May regular member meeting will return to the St. Pius K of C. Renovations are complete and they are ready to go.

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament took place on April 28. This was the first DAS tournament of the 2001 season. Unfortunately the dreaded Blue Water Sportfishing Club again walked away with the first prize.

The Blue Water Sport Fishing Club weighed in 931.2 pounds of salmon versus 578.6 pounds for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Blue Water had 84 boats entered versus 54 for Detroit. Thirty-two Detroit boats caught fish and the average catch per boat was 18.1 pounds. This still makes this one of the best River Crabs for catch. Top finishing boats will be announced at the meeting.

As previously announced, one skipper's name will be drawn from the 32 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 Stosiak (810) 777-9833.

IT'S LADIES DAY

JUNE 23RD IN HARRISVILLE

Remembering last year's cool and breezy weather Port Captain Dave Roehr of Loki One hopes this year's outing will be warm and sunny with fair seas. The only question remaining is whether the fish will cooperate and show up in good numbers to help the Ladies show the men how it's really done. In this tournament the men are allowed only to set lines, steer the boat and net the fish once it realizes the futility in fighting our determined Ladies.

The Ladies must do the hard stuff themselves, like manning the rods when a reel starts to scream.

For those who have yet to visit Harrisville the port is approximately 18 miles north of Oscoda, off of U.S. 23. Most people take I-75 to exit 188 at Standish to catch U.S. 23. There is a traffic light at the intersection of U.S. 23 and M-72 in Harrisville. Turn right at this light and continue to the Harrisville boat launch and Marina. If last year was typical, the marina staff are friendly and very helpful; one of the reasons we're looking forward to returning to this port.

As for fishing in the area, many skippers will head north toward the mouth of the Black River and on to South Point at the outer reaches of Thunder Bay. Last year a few had luck straight out from the harbor while others headed south toward Oscoda. Harrisville has long been a good port for a variety of fish. Check with the area bait shops and Charter Captains for fishing reports and information. Be aware too that

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COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 29 at St. Pius

Tuesday, June 26

Tuesday, July 31

Tuesday, August 28

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

Port Austin June 2

Special People June 16

Kids Fishing Day June 17

Harrisville June 23

Erieau outing July 14

Frankfort July 28

Ludington August 11

Manistee August 25

Rogers City September 8

there may be commercial trap nets in the area as Gauthier (?) Fisheries were due to move their operation from Rogers City to Harrisville as part of the new consent agreement with the Tribes.

Unless otherwise announced by the Port Captain or Tournament Director Mark Stosiak, the Skippers meeting will be held outside the marina office at 5:00 a.m. with the boats leaving the pier heads at 6:00. Fish calls will be on VHF channel 72 at 9:00 a.m. and 11 am. We'll pull lines at 1:00 P.M. Remember, if you're fighting a fish when the call comes to pull lines you must inform the Port Captain or Tournament Director. All Skippers with fish to weigh must be in the weigh-in line by 3:00 p.m.

As is tradition, there will be a 'pot luck' picnic after the weigh-in. This has long been one of our favorite events of the year for our skippers and crews as they wait patiently to see what delicious goodies will be

on the menu. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Remember to store the potato salads and other perishable food items in a separate cooler until the time of the picnic. We wouldn't want anyone to turn green now, would we?

There are a number of fine places to stay, eat and shop. And don't forget it's a short drive back to Oscoda where the annual 'Art on the Beach' will be taking place. If you like arts and crafts shows bring the checkbook because this is one of the best shows of it's kind in the state.

Further information on Harrisville is located through our web site or on the handout available at the May meeting. Contact Port Captain Dave Roehr at (248) 547-6083.

SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING - June 16

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 16.

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. Thanks to a new fish ladder and increased plantings in the Huron River the number of Steelhead caught has increased too! And let's not even mention the Sheephead. Oops! Sorry!

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

KIDS FISHING DAY

Tournament Director Mark Stosiak announced that there will be a "for fun" Kids Fishing Day on Lake Erie the day after the Special People outing. The Kids Fishing Day will take place at Toledo Beach on Sunday (Fathers Day) and be your chance to have fun with the family and get some tasty walleye. More details will be available at the meeting.

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 below. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

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 (810) 293-7688
Doug Karakas (248) 545-1181
Stan Bilek (810) 264-4090

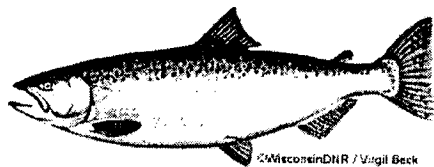
A Course in

Safe Boating

Held by the Grosse Point Power Squadron. Sept. 10 2001. GP North HS. Contact GPPS Info Line (313) 885-5005

2001 PHOTO CONTEST

The Board of Directors has announced that the club will again have a photo contest in 2001. Please submit your photos to Bob Mitchell 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 out 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 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.

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 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. Ron Hartman - Molly Frair (248) 542-4873 (home)

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 before the tournament and re-tie your knots. A little nick is all it takes to lose that one fish.

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Hooks must be sharp. A dull hook will result in 3 for 10. A sharp hook will get you to 5 for 10, 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 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 from 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 next.

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

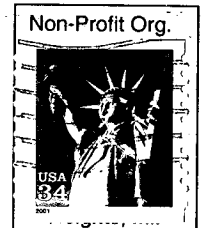
TOMORROW'S DREAM
Sportfishing Charters

Salmon & Trout
25 ft Pursuit

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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