

FISHIN' TALES



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[http://www.great-lakes.org/
mi/detroitsteelheaders/index.html](http://www.great-lakes.org/mi/detroitsteelheaders/index.html)

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APRIL MEETING

The next meeting will feature the River Crab Tournament and information you need to compete for the club in this tournament. We will have an update on launch ramps which will be very important given the low water levels of the Great Lakes. From the positive side we will have lots of information from skippers who have been successful in this tournament in past years and from skippers who have already fished these ports in 2000. Even if you can't make the Crab you will want to hear this information.

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament and raffle featuring the return of Slippery Charlie takes place on April 29. The angler who catches Slippery Charlie will win a \$1000 reward for this tagged King salmon. This will also be the first DAS tournament of the 2000 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. Let's make this tournament the

number one tournament on your schedule and help the club win the \$5,000.

The number one technique for the River Crab is long A Bombers run on long lines off planer boards. Hot colors vary from year to year but the Wonder Bread, Fire Tiger and metallic gold with orange or black backs are good starter choices. Be sure to ask the skippers at the April meeting for what the fish in 2000 want. Some skippers use rubber core sinkers on some lines to vary the depth. Others use deep divers to test various depths. Spoons can be deadly any time of the year and you will want to try some here too. This is especially true later in the day as fish start to move deeper. Don't be afraid to run some off dipsey divers either. Every year someone catches a couple big kings in deeper water while everyone else is beating the shoreline.

Most skippers respool with fresh line for the year. You may want to try some lighter line for the Crab or just use the 17-20 lb. Line that you will use later in the year. Be sure to check your line. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish by saving five bucks on line and losing a big \$100 king (and a four dollar lure) because you didn't buy new line.

The basic trolling technique is to fish shallow water by some of the creek mouths early in the day. Troll along the shore working in an out until you hit a fish. Then work the area for a while to be sure that others aren't there too. Generally the fishing is best inside 20 feet of water. With the warm spring the fish may be deeper and farther North than typical. Again, get the latest information at the meeting and listen to channel 72 during the tournament. Pass along good info to fellow Detroit Steelheaders.

If you need a ride or your boat is not ready to go, call the Crews Hot Line and hook up with another skipper who needs a crew member.

Remember that skippers need to be current members of the club. Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. If it's marked in yellow, see Tom Moores to renew before the tournament.

A \$10 entry ticket includes your individual entry fee, a raffle ticket where the grand prize is a four-day, three night get-away for two to the Grand Hotel on Macinac Island including \$300 of fun money. First prize is a three-day, two night get-away for two in Toronto including \$200 in fun money. Plus, there are three other great prizes. Dinner tickets will be available for an additional \$14 per person. For any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact: 2000 Boat Trolling Chairman Mark Stosiak at (810) 777-9833.

HARBOR CONTACTS & COORDINATES

Need to seed your GPS with the coordinates for a tournament port? Here are the starting points. Don't rely on them to navigate back in the dark. A few hundred feet off could have you T-bone a pier.

Benton Harbor/St. Joe

N 42° 06' 58"
W 86° 29' 44"
West Basin Marina
616-983-5432
Tackle Haven 616-925-0341

Grand Haven

N 43° 03' 27"
W 86° 15' 26"
Marina 616-847-3478

Ludington

N 43° 57' 10"
W 86° 28' 14"
Marina 616-843-9611

Manistee

N 44° 15' 08"
W 86° 20' 58"
Marina 616-723-1552

Lexington

N 43° 15' 50"
W 82° 31' 00"
Marina 810-359-5600

Port Sanilac

N 43° 25' 48"
W 82° 32' 04"
Marina 810-622-8818

Harbor Beach

N 43° 50' 48"
W 82° 37' 47"
Marina 517-479-9707

Port Austin

N 44° 03' 14"
W 82° 59' 37"
Marina 517-738-8712

Harrisville

N 44° 39' 43"
W 83° 16' 50"
Marina 517-724-5242

Rogers City

N 45° 25' 28"
W 83° 48' 24"
Marina 517-734-3808

FIRST 25 YEARS UPDATE

The article in the annual issue regarding the top skippers in the first twenty five years of the club has stirred debate and a lot of great memories of past members. One of my objectives of printing the article in the Annual was to spur debate and dredge up some old information. Following is a letter from a life member who shares memories of some past members who were great fishermen. I'd love to hear from others who have similar memories or can update us on past record catches...Ed.

Dear Editor:

Having reviewed the 2000 Annual Edition of Fishin Tales, I would like to offer the following information and viewpoint for publication.

INFORMATION:

The name of Paul Irvine's boat was Yellow Jacket. The first Skipper of the Year was won by Chuck Cartwright in 1975. His trophy is displayed in his home.

VIEWPOINT

Perhaps due to the year your membership began, you are unaware that Tom Schnieder, one of the founders of Detroit Area Steelheaders was at that time and continues to be today Steelheading personified. Perhaps you do not know that in the first twenty five years Dick Swan was a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. I suppose that you never met John Rieland former world record holder in the steelhead and salmon categories who was also a member of the D.A.S. Others of that group would include Bob Lindberg and Ken Conrad members who designed steelhead rods produced by major corporations.

When you designated Ed Yankowski the "Best River Fisherman of the First Twenty Five Years" I'm wondering where these legends ranked?

I kind of got the impression from your article that tournament results helped form your opinion. I think its safe to say that a tournament win is as important as who the entrants were.

COMING EVENTS

MEMBER MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 25, CRAB NIGHT

Tuesday May 30, 2000

St. Pius K of C, Warren

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

River Crab	April 29
St. Joe	May 6
Grand Haven	May 20
Port Austin	June 3
Special People	June 17
Harrisville	July 24
Rogers City	July 29
Ludington	August 12
Manistee	August 26
Harbor Beach	September 9

Ed Yankowski and his sidekick Brian are good – great steelhead fishermen. Beyond question they are among the best. Of course, in an age when sports writers rank a horse ahead of humans in a list of greatest athletes who should expect anything more.

That's my viewpoint! Tom Nesbitt, White Lake Mi.

MAY SPEAKER

Don't miss the May membership meeting. The scheduled speaker is Kelly Smith; Chief of the Fisheries Division of the DNR. I heard Kelly speak at the Great lakes Sportfishing Council Annual Meeting and he was great!

ST. JOE TOURNAMENT

The second tournament of the year will take place in St. Joe on May 6. The

Detroit Area Steelheaders have not been to this port in several years, but there have been some fantastic 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 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: Ken Kuhar (810) 949-4365

GRAND HAVEN TOURNAMENT

Going Back to Grand Haven
By Paul Colone(The Kidd).
It is set; we are going back to Grand Haven, Michigan on the West Coast of the State, (Lake Michigan), on May 20th , 2000.

I am excited about this trip because of the fishing there the past few years; particularly in the spring and the fall.

I do not know what the program will be at the Port, but, we will know more as the date approaches. If not, we are all "Big water vets", and finding out the program will be no problem.

The Port itself is a vacation destination for people all across Michigan. It offers a ton of things to do, for everyone! The Downtown area is

beautiful; full of shops, restaurants, and bars. I have some fond memories, although some blurred, of frequenting Tip-a-Few, The Kirby Grill and The Rosebud Tavern and enjoying an adult beverage or two. The Musical Fountain will be in operation starting on Sat the 15th at approx. 9:30 PM located at the Waterfront Stadium. There are plenty of accommodations around town including Hotels, Motels, Campgrounds, and plenty of Marinas.

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 Ph# is (616) 847-3478, according to a friend from G.H., the Marina will not be full at this time of the year. It may also 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 web sites, be ready for some great fishing and make the date for Grand Haven on May 20th, 2000. The Detroit Area Steelheaders are going to rock and roll doing the Salmon dance boogie in G.H.!!! If you have any questions feel free to call Port Captain Stan Bilek at (248) 828-4159

For Sale:

1989 23 foot Sea Ray Express Cruiser Immaculate shape. Ready to fish. E-Z Loader trailer, 4 Proos downriggers, Beavertroll, Perko outriggers and more. Call Tim Graskiewicz (248) 486-5674

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

