



FISHING TALES



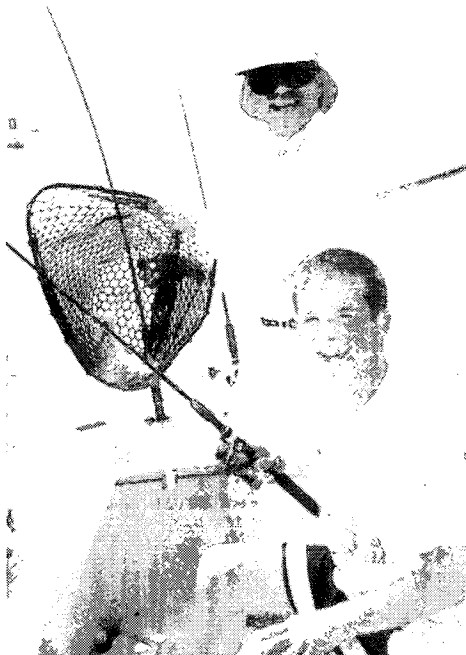
Special People Outing set for June 17

This year's Special People outing is set for June 17 at Lake Erie. This is the club event you have heard about where we get to take some very Special People out for a day of Walleye catching.

As in years past, the day's activities will be based at Toledo Beach Marina, and once again, I'm pleased to report that Marina management is supporting us by making their facilities available for the post-fishing picnic, and with boat dockage.

This outing has become a very special day in the lives of these Special People from the Monroe County and Canton Townships schools, thanks to all the efforts of Detroit Area Steelheader members, who have provided boats, served as crew members, and worked on shore preparing for the post-fishing picnic and the other fun activities that highlight this most enjoyable event.

Last year, we provided an exciting day on the water and ashore for approximately 43 people. I believe this year there will be at least that many or more people who would love to



THE ANNUAL SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING is one of the real highlights of our year!

participate, so I estimate we will need at least 25 to 30 boats or more if we are going to be able to accommodate everyone. The number of free boat slips at Toledo Beach Marina is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis on Friday evening.

Crew assignments will be made Saturday at about 7:30 a.m. at our tent headquarters near the marina bath house, with the picnic and awards beginning at that same spot around noon. If you can help out, either as a skipper, or as boat crew or shore crew, please contact me at the May meeting, or call me.

If you have never participated in this event before, let me assure you that you have been missing out on 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 and help us make it happen!!

- Dick Shirk
(810) 777-8900 (day)
(810) 749-9493 (eve.)

CREWS Hot Line

NEED A CREW?

Looking for crew members to fish with you in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments?



WANT TO CREW?

Want 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 1999 season. Contact:

LARRY BOYER: (313) 495-1342
DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181

WILD GAME DINNER WAS WELL-RECEIVED



THE STEELHEADER WILD GAME DINNER in March was reasonably well-attended, and seemed to be a hit with those who showed up. The Board would like to hear comments pro and con as they decide if this will become a regular club event.

For Your Information . . .

PORT AUSTIN TEAM DOUBLES TOURNAMENT IS SET FOR JUNE 3-4

The weekend of June 3 will find the Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament fleet fishing out of Port Austin.

If you've never fished at Port Austin before, be sure to follow the green cans past the lighthouse before heading east. **DO NOT** cut between the lighthouse and shore. The lighthouse marks a very shallow reef which extends all the way to shore. In years past, if you went over that reef, you took your life in your hands. With the lower lake level we're experiencing this year, that short cut is almost suicidal!

We have spoken to the people at the docks at Port Austin, and they tell us that you should not have a problem launching your boat, or with finding a spot at the docks.

The Saturday Skippers Meeting will take place promptly at 5:00 a.m. near the bath house right by the parking lot, with a 6:00 a.m. start barring high winds or high waves (check with Mark Stosiak or myself, or tune to channel 72 - the club's frequency - to find out the latest info on the starting time if weather seems to be a problem). There will be Fish Calls at 9:00 a.m. and noon, with lines pulled at 2:00 p.m. for a 3:00 p.m. weigh-in. Be certain you're in line by 3:00 p.m.!

Lake Trout will probably be the prime catch. Try northeast of the Lighthouse (about 5-7 miles) in 75'-100' of water. Bouncing the bottom or running close to it will get you some Lakers. Good baits include P-Nuts, Spin-N-Glos, or Wobble-Glos with cowbells or chrome dodgers. Anything in green or chartreuse should produce. The key is a s-l-o-w presentation. If you are going to bounce the bottom, consider using break-off weights to save your cannon-

balls and downriggers.

Dodger/squid setups run 5'-10' off the bottom may also get some Kings. Also, clean spoons in "black and anything" set 25'-50' down are good for a variety of mostly Kings, but also some suspended Lake Trout and an occasional Steelhead.

There will be a Team Doubles tourney on Sunday for skippers who are staying over. Team assignments (first place on Saturday is paired with last place, second place with next-to-last, etc.) will be made at the weigh-in on Saturday at the picnic area on the hill. Everyone has a good time eating hot dogs, having a few beers, and swapping a few lies! Good luck to everyone - I'll see you at the docks.

- Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"
(248) 542-4873 (home)

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RECORD-SETTING BROWN TROUT CAUGHT

According to the Oakland Press of April 13, angler Larry E. Curtis of Reed City, Michigan caught a record-setting Brown Trout on April 5, 2000, a monster measuring 40 1/2 inches long and weighing in at 34.62 pounds. Curtis was trolling "along the coastline of Lake Michigan offshore of Manistee County." The previous record was a 34.45-pounder, also taken from Lake Michigan waters off Manistee County on April 23, 1998.

'Coho Dave' Staniczewski, our own "Lucky Pierre," caught his near-record Coho Salmon at Manistee in the club tournament last year. Hmm . . . Manistee County might just be the place to fish. What do you think???

- Ron Huey, rhuey@ameritech.net

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RIVER CRAB ROUNDUP

The first tournament of the year was the

River Crab on April 29. A total of 50 club boats participated in this very worthwhile tournament, but only 15 boats weighed in fish. Those numbers reveal just how poor the fishing was again this year at this event.

The weather started out good, but the wind picked up and caused a lot of boats to quit early. Sad to report, the Detroit Area Steelheaders lost the club portion of this year's tourney to the Blue Water boys (the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association), with a final count of 152.95 compared to 229.60 for the local competition. We're getting closer, but not yet close enough.

Maybe next year, the River Crab will take place at the same time as the Blue Water Tournament, the way it was three years ago. Everybody knows what happens then - we kick butt!

Club member Ron Maschke fishing aboard "The Brat" took first place with the largest King Salmon in the tournament, an 18.75-pounder that netted Ron \$500! Wonder if he shared that with his crew . . . Steve Jackson caught the biggest Coho Salmon, weighing in at 3.40 pounds. The largest Brown Trout was weighed in at 10.18 pounds by Danny Owen, while the largest Steelhead, tipping the scale at 7.20 pounds, was taken by John Richardson. Paul Zimmer won the Super Skipper award with a total catch of only 38.00 pounds.

I would like to thank all the skippers and crew members who took the time to participate in this great charity event, representing the good name of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. This tournament is certainly benefits a good cause, and that's the main reason why everyone should participate. I'm sure all the children who receive much-needed services from the various charities which are the beneficiaries of the River Crab Salmon Stakes would say thanks to you, as well.

I would like extend special recognition to Sandy Pabisz and Debbie Sexton for taking time out from their busy schedules to come and offer their help. Also, I would like to thank Ron Huey for helping me with the scales at the weigh-in.

- Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream"
(810) 777-9833

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RIVER CRAB TOURNEY RESULTS

(April 29, 2000 - 50 boats entered)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) BLUE STAR II (Stanley Bilek)	48.05
2) THE BRAT (Paul Colone)	38.95
3) CAPIAS (Mike Lehto)	33.10
4) SEADUCE (Rob Helzer)	24.25
5) KARE FREE (Tom Moores)	23.65
6) MY SIDE (Tim Busch)	21.40
7) COMUS (Edward Horen)	14.75
8) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak)	14.65
9) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	14.05
10) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	12.40

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

(Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren)

MAY 30, 2000 • JUNE 27, 2000 • JULY 25, 2000

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
June 3-4	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Ron Hartman, (248) 542-4873
June 17	SPECIAL PEOPLE	
	OUTING (Lake Erie)	Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493
June 24	HARRISVILLE (Ladies Day)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
July 29	PRESQUE ISLE	Joe Von Grabe, (810) 293-7688
Aug. 12	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034
Aug. 26	MANISTEE	Mark Stosiak, (810) 777-9833
Sept. 9	HARBOR BEACH	Ed Wilczek, (810) 757-7365

IT WAS A SMALL TURNOUT AT ST. JOE

The "Mary K" crew was on the road to St. Joseph before 4:00 a.m. Friday, and heading out of the marina by 7:30 a.m. Passing the pier head, there was enough light to see powder blue water at the southern channel edge, in contrast to the stained water pouring out of the river. At 40 feet, the stained water temperature was 59°F, and in the next instant it was 54°F and powder blue. This might be the place to be!

The 14-boat tourney started on time with a light chop and warm southerly breezes that soon went to calm. "Mary K" broke in front, with our first fish being our largest of the day and second-largest of the tourney, and again this year Scotty O. never even considered giving up the pole to his skipper!

Early reports from other boats revealed that those that went three to six miles north of the pier heads in 70'-90' of water had the best early action. "Aquarius II" and "Just Once" reported four fish each at the first Fish Call, with "Mary K" and "Mickey Mouse Club" right behind with three each. By the second Fish Call at 11:00 a.m., "Aquarius II" had taken a commanding lead with 11 fish in the box, followed by "Blue Star" and "Crusader" with nine each and "Just Once" with eight.

Chris Nytko and his "Aquarius II" crew finished first, with Chuck Nutting and "Just Once" in second, and Ron Hartman and "Molly Frair" third. Chris also took first place in the Big Fish Pool, while yours truly claimed second thanks to Scotty O., and "Molly Frair" took third. The largest fish in the tourney, an 18.01-pound beauty caught aboard "Sloppy Joe," was not entered in the pool.

Congratulations to Chris for the wins, and to new skipper Mike Vigus and his "Crusader" crew for a top ten finish, and thanks to all those who participated

— Ken Kuhar, "Mary K"

ST. JOSEPH TOURNEY RESULTS

(May 6, 2000 — 14 boats entered)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	123.09
2) JUST ONCE (Chuck Nutting)	100.09
3) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	85.10
4) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	81.09
5) BLUE STAR II (Stanley Bilek)	80.03
6) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak)	79.00
7) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	74.06
8) MICKEY MOUSE CLUB (B. Buero)	54.09
9) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	54.01
10) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr)	31.02

BIG FISH WINNERS

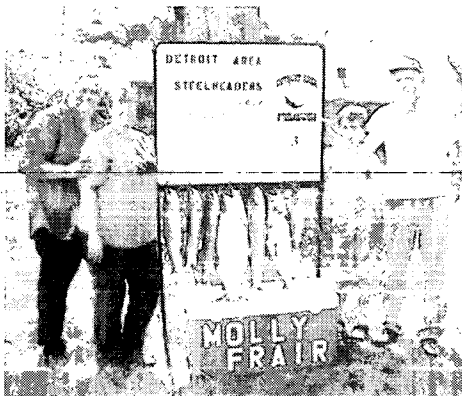
1) CHRIS NYTKO ("Aquarius II") King Salmon	17 lbs., 8 oz.
2) KENNETH KUHAR ("Mary K") King Salmon	16 lbs., 6 oz.
3) RON HARTMAN ("Molly Frair") King Salmon	16 lbs., 2 oz.



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



2nd Place: "JUST ONCE" with Chuck Nutting and crew.



3rd Place: "MOLLY FRAIR" with Ron Hartman and crew.



4th Place: "CRUSADER" with Mike Vigus and crew.



5th Place: "BLUE STAR II" with Stanley Bilek and crew.



6th Place: "TOMORROW'S DREAM" with Mark Stosiak and crew.



7th Place: "MARY K" with Ken Kuhar and crew.



8th Place: "MICKEY MOUSE CLUB" with Bob Buero and crew.

Indian tribal fishing dispute moves closer to a final settlement; most issues resolved

A major step has been taken toward reaching a settlement of the Great Lakes fishing controversy between Indian gill netters and the State of Michigan.

Attorney John Bickerman, of Washington, D.C., who was appointed by Federal District Judge Richard Enslen to serve as mediator for the various parties involved in hopes of avoiding a full court confrontation of pending litigation, announced Friday (April 28), that several northern Michigan Indian tribes, the State of Michigan, and the United States Department of the Interior have reached a conceptual agreement intended to resolve their long-standing differences regarding the fishery.

"The agreement resolves most major aspects of the dispute, although significant issues remain involving one or two of the tribes," Bickerman said in his statement. "Unless these issues are resolved, those tribes may not be able to join in the final agreement. The parties will continue to negotiate to fully resolve the remaining matters and to finalize the details of the agreement."

The 1985 consent agreement between the tribes, the federal government, the State of Michigan, and the litigating amici in the case expires next month (May 2000). The parties have been negotiating since last fall in an attempt to reach a new agreement. However there is still a time cushion for reaching an agreement.

The parties previously agreed to continue

the rules of the 1985 agreement through the end of the current year.

There were two major issues agreed upon in the agreement announced on April 28. One is that state-licensed trap net fishermen working in Bay de Noc voluntarily offered to sell their fishing operations, thereby allowing tribal gill netters to convert to trap net operations and take over the areas formerly owned by the state-licensed fishermen.

"The elimination of this gill net effort provides the opportunity for improved Lake Trout rehabilitation in northern Lake Huron and Lake Michigan," the statement reads. "This opportunity, combined with the ongoing success of sea lamprey control efforts being undertaken in the St. Mary's River, will increase Lake Trout populations and should provide better future fishing opportunities for both sport and tribal fishers."

The other key issue resolved provides for a limited fall gill net fishery in Lake Huron's Hammond Bay which would give the Indian tribal fishermen an increased whitefish harvest with a reduced incidental take of Lake Trout. A biologically based fishery is being crafted for the area, based upon the results of a scientific fishing assessment conducted last year.

"As part of the agreement," Bickerman's statement said, "additional Salmon and Lake Trout sport fishing opportunities will be available in northern Lake Huron. Also the biologi-

cal limits established will ensure a reduction of the current eighty percent Lake Trout mortality in northern Lake Huron to a maximum of forty-five percent.

"Tribal fishing will also take place in limited areas of Lake Michigan south of Leland. This fishing will utilize impoundment fishing gear that will allow live release of game fish (Salmon, Trout, Walleye, Perch). Small mesh gill nets may also be used to take chubs in offshore waters deeper than 240 feet."

This latter point was also part of the 1985 agreement. This development by no means settles the issue, but it is the first really positive step to emerge since the negotiations to form a new agreement began.

As one person involved in the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "At least now we're letting the biologists decide the amount of fish to be caught."

As was noted in *Fishin' Tales* last year, Judge Enslen is seen by many observers as having consistently ruled in favor of the resource (the fish) in this case. And given the apparent progress beginning to emerge in this long-standing and, at times, bitter dispute, Bickerman's reputation as a successful mediator with knowledge, experience and credibility in achieving resource-based settlements in such cases is well-deserved

-John Block

Adapted from the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, April 29, 2000.

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

14 MILE

MOUND RD.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Pius X Council No. 3848
6177 Chicago Rd. 264-4511
Warren, Michigan 48092

VAN DYKE

CHICAGO RD.

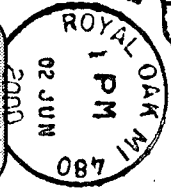
CHICAGO RD.

HOOVER

13 MILE

13 MILE

**The DEADLINE for the
June issue of FISHIN' TALES is
June 5, 2000**



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!

