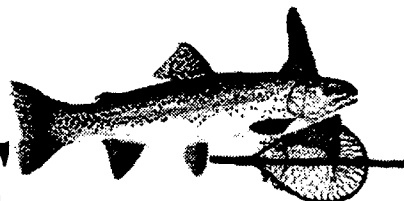


FISHIN' TALES



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GEORGE RITCHEY TO SPEAK

MEMBER MEETING

Don't miss the February 24 member meeting. The featured speaker will be George Ritchie of Michigan Squid fame.

George is one of the most knowledgeable speakers on salmon fishing in the Great Lakes. His Michigan Squids have proven their ability to catch big fish and win tournaments. Don't miss him!

NEW OFFICERS for '98

At the January Board of Directors Meeting, new officers were elected for 1998. Don Redmond was re-elected President. Congratulations Don!

The Board also re-elected Ray Banbury, Vice President, Steve Hamilton Treasure and Ed Wilczek-Secretary. Congratulations guys. We all need to offer our help and support to these guys!

SHOWS CONTINUE

We still need help in manning the booth at fishing shows. The DAS will be at the Palace and Outdoorama. Your help is needed and appreciated. If you can help, please call Ed Wilczek at (810) 757-7365.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Be sure to mark March 21 on your calendar. This is the date for the 1998 Detroit Area Steelheaders Vegas party. Look for more details in upcoming issues or at the regular meetings.

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament takes place on May 2. The River Crab is the second tournament on our club schedule.

The Bluewater Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic of Port Huron and seven other Michigan agencies benefited from the tournament last year.

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.

Entry tickets (\$10) and dinner tickets (\$13) should be available at the meeting. If you have any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact Don Redmond (810) 469-8344 or Chris Nytko (810) 254-7426.

1998 BOAT DIRECTORY

We will be collecting information for the 1998 Detroit Area Steelheaders Boat Directory. See Chris Nytko or Don Redmond at the February meeting to complete a form. The directory will be laminated for easy on-board storage.

BOAT US MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your Boat US membership!!!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders is an affiliated club. As such, you get a significant saving on your Boat US

dues.

Let them know you are a member and give them the club's code when you sign up. The number is:

GA 82750B

GET THE NET

Get the net. Get the net! No...no..no; not that net. Get THE net; you know, the information super highway. The world wide web. The net of the 21st century. THAT net! On the Internet (or web if you prefer to call it that) today you can find information about anything. Unfortunately, we all too often hear of the bad stuff that's out there. But, in this article I want to discuss how to go fishing on the internet. That's right; fishing. Or hunting or camping, boating or anything to do with the great outdoors. In this article I'll tell you how the internet helped me improve my fishing experience last year.

For those of you who are computer literate, you most likely already know how to navigate around the web. For those of you who may just be getting in the computer age and don't know a goat from a RAM, I will hopefully set you off in the right direction.

The first thing you have to do is lure (Silver Steaks, Northport Nailer...oh, he didn't mean THAT kind of lure.) the kids away from the computer. This may be almost impossible in some households but try telling the kids that there is a Hanson music video on the tube and that just might do it. Of course, a hefty bribe works well, too. The again, you might need the kids walking you through working

the thing. It takes Dad a bit longer to grasp this stuff. Remember, we didn't have computers when we went to school. We had to fight off the dinosaurs to just get to school. Hey Junior, ever hear of an abacus?

OK, now its your turn. You need to have a modem hooked to a phone line to connect to a service provider; in my case I use AOL (America On Line) There are a number of other internet service providers out there. Find one that suits your needs and budget. Once on-line, just experiment to get a feel for how things work. You'll find how to connect to the web. Now, you need somewhere to go. One way to find things is via "search engines." You'll see any number of these things including, but not limited to : AOL Netfind, Excite, Lycos, etc. Type in what you are looking for and usually, you'll get back a multitude of web sites related to your subject. click on one and away you go. Another way to explore the subject is through "links" that are found on most web pages. Or, if you know the address of the page you are looking for you can type it in and go directly to the site. Now , you are ready to spend countless hours looking over the vast amount of "stuff" out there. When the "tube" stinks, and it's just too darn cold to go ice fishing, go fishing out on the net.

OK, so now you've made it out onto the web. Now, lets go find some fishing related stuff. Here are a few great sites to view that I've found over the last few years.

GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHING COUNCIL

<http://www.great-lakes.org>

Learn about the GLSFC and other clubs and organizations working to promote our fisheries. This site will have a variety of related links leading to information about the fishery in the Grate Lakes area: fishery news, clubs, weather, fishing reports, etc.

Michigan- A great place to live
<http://kalamazoo.inetmi.com/mihmpg.htm>

I like this site for a variety of links it has. On-line newspapers in Michigan, DNR information, State government, weather and many others.

"Interactive Marine Buoy Observations: Greta Lakes"

<http://www.nws.fsu.edu/buoy/egtik.html> Do you want up to the minute weather and sea status reports from the area you're about to fish? This is it. Click on a buoy or weather station and you can print your report.

"glsea.gif"

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/cw/cwdata/ct/glsea.gif> This is a surface map of the Great lakes. It may be helpful in locating the Salmon in the Spring. Use this with your charts to get an edge on where to start looking for those warmer pockets of water that hold the baitfish.

"Michigan Fishing report"

<http://www.gtii.com/fish/fishrep/report.htm> This is a great resource for up to date fishing reports. Reports are user submitted with many telling all the how-to and where-to information you'll need to plan that upcoming trip. Last year we used this to get updates on the 'eyes on Lake Erie.

"Steely Ed Page"

this is my own web page. I'm learning how to add some interesting content as time goes along. You can link to most of the above sites from there and get my e-mail address there too. Check it out. Ed Wilczek

WINTER TIME TROLLING

Just because its February doesn't mean that you can't be doing things to get ready for next Spring and Summer's trolling season. A little organizing, sorting and cleaning will go a long way toward success.

First, now is the time to sort through all of your tackle. Make a list so you know what you have. (You may want to keep this where your wife won't see it!) With a list you won't buy unnecessary tackle at the shows. Also, note those items you need. Do you have an assortment of Bombers for Spring? Do you need more of those "Hot" spoons, dodgers, Dipseys? This list will be a real help at the shows where there are always bargains galore. You will be able to buy just the things you need.

While you are at it, sort out those baits, reels, rods, etc. that you didn't use last year. They are good candidates for the swap table in March and will provide cash to buy the new lures you need.

Other lures should be separated into the "paint" pile. That off-color spoon you bought last year may be a deadly lure if you paint and tape it a different scheme; and that's a lot cheaper than buying all new. Pay attention to hooks. Some will need replacing; all resharpening. Remember that one that the big king straightened out? Take the front hooks off your Bombers and they will hang up less on the bottom next Spring. Put bigger hooks on the tail if they are the small trebles.

Don't forget your rods and reels. Is there a guide on a rod that needs to be fixed. Take your reels apart and clean and oil them. Any reels that need repairing should be taken in now before the Spring rush. Finally, strip the old line off your reels. If you haven't bought new line, put it on your list. Don't wait until the last minute or you may never do it.

RIVER DRIFT FISHING TECHNIQUES FOR STEELHEAD, SALMON & TROUT

Courtesy Luhr Jensen Tech Tips

Drift fishing is easy, fun and effective. The technique has gained popularity over the years as more and more streams across the country are supporting trout, steelhead and salmon runs.

Whether a beginner or a more experienced angler, this Luhr Jensen Tech Report can help you become even more successful using this method of fishing. Typical drift fishing waters consist of a series of pools and rapids, with the pools (drifts) holding feeding, resting or migrating fish.

Drift lures fished through these pool areas, with the drift fishing technique, will often produce excellent results.

The basic drift fishing technique consists of casting across and slightly upstream, and then allowing your drift bobber and accompanying sinker to drift naturally downstream in the current, the sinker gently bouncing along the bottom. When your lure has drifted back near the bank, it is reeled in and another cast and drift made.

Use a snap swivel to hook through one end of the cord. Put your main line through the eye of the snap and attach the line to a barrel swivel so the slinky will slide free above the barrel swive. Tie your leader to the other end of the barrel swivel and you're ready to fish nearly snag free.

Buoyant drift bobbers simulate fish egg clusters, shrimp or other natural baits. Their success is attributed to color, action and buoyancy as they are drifted naturally along the bottom through fish-holding water. (The various drift bobbers are listed separately on the following pages along with a description and fishing application.)

There are scores of ways to add weight ahead of a drift bobber. Pencil lead, either solid or hollow core, is the most popular and has proved both economical and easy to use.

Solid pencil lead is best fastened to your line using a Lead Cinch which consists of a three-way swivel and a length of surgical tubing. Your main line is tied to one end of the swivel, leader and bobber to the other end and a section of pencil lead inserted into the Lead Cinch. If the lead becomes snagged, it will pull away from the tubing and your drift bobber and Lead Cinch can be retrieved.

Hollow pencil lead is best fastened by crimping it to a short leader dropped from a barrel swivel as shown in the illustrations. If this lead becomes snagged, a sharp pull will free the lead from the dropper leader and your drift bobber, leader and swivel can be reclaimed.

Pencil lead comes in coils or long sections so you can cut off the desired amount. Most lead available through sport shops comes in diameters of 1/8, 3/16 and 1/4 inch, with 3/16 the most popular size for average fishing conditions and stream flows.

In addition to pencil leads, an unusual drift sinker is available from Luhr Jensen. The Bouncing Betty snagless sinker, because of its spherical shape and size, is much less likely to hang up than convention pencil leads . . . although it still won't guarantee that your hook won't snag! (rig like pencil lead)

Due to its mass, the Bouncing Betty is best used in slow or shallow water, where conventional-weight rigging makes drifting difficult or impossible. It will produce a smooth, long, snag-free drift. Its shape works in combination with slower currents to be pushed gently downstream,

avoiding most rocks and snags. Also, the Bouncing Betty makes long casts easier and it's non-toxic.

One of the big tricks to successful drift fishing is to select just the right amount of weight for the water you are fishing. A weight that's too heavy will snag easily while one that's too light will not

keep your drift bobber near the bottom where the fish are. The ideal weight is one that results in a tap-tap-skip action as it makes regular contact with the bottom and then rises a bit before hitting again. Experienced drift anglers usually begin working an unknown drift with a 2 1/2 to 3 inch piece of pencil lead and then, after making a drift or two, shorten it until the drift feels just right with that tap-tap-skip action.

LEAD TIP: Your pencil lead should always hang straight, as a bent or crooked piece of lead will often result in twisting or tangling of your line.

With the lead rigged, you now are ready to add a drift bobber to your hook and leader. Depending on the particular rivers you fish, you will want main line testing anywhere from 8 to 20pounds. Leader lengths should be from 18 to 24 inches, with the longer leaders selected for low or clear water drifting and the shorter lengths for average water conditions.

BOBBER TIP: Birdy drift bobbers will fish better if a small, round bead is added between the bobber and the hook. The bead acts as a tiny ball bearing and allows the bobber to spin more freely, giving it improved action. A bead will also keep your hook straight out behind the bobber, allowing better fish-hooking capability.

Successful drift fishing requires that your line be close to the bottom. Hence it is important to use a heavier line than you would ordinarily select for lake fishing as it will have to take

the added bottom-scraping abrasion that comes with drifting. We recommend that you use a premium quality, monofilament line, such as Trilene XT or Berkley Big Game.

There are three instinctive reasons a fish bites a drift bobber: It's either hungry, protecting its territory or curious. Although strikes can be hard, they're often almost imperceptible. Some fish will only lightly mouth a bobber and this kind of "take" is very

SPECIAL DATES

Outdoorama Feb. 20-
Mar. 1

Palace March 3-5

Welston Big Manistee
River tournament
Pappy's Feb 28

Member Meeting Feb 24
Member Meeting Mar 31
--- Swap table Mar 31
Vegas Party Mar 21
Member Meeting Apr 28

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

Lexington April 25
River Crab May 2
Grand Haven May 16
Pt Austin May 30
Special People June 13
Oscoda Ladies Day
June 27
Pt Austin Walleye
July 25
Presque Isle August 1
Ludington August 15
Manistee August 29
Harbor Beach Sept. 12

ordinary bottom tapping. Many fish are lost or not hooked simply because the angler just can't detect these soft pickups. There are, however, two things you can do which will help you nab these light-biters: Use super-sharp hooks and add some yarn below your bobber.

Sharp hooks are critical no matter what kind of fishing you do, but they become even more important when trying to hook light-biting fish while drift fishing. A fish will have a great deal of difficulty getting a sticky-sharp hook out of its mouth without it catching somewhere. Once a sharp point catches, every move the fish makes to expel it will only drive it deeper and you will feel a harder "take" as the fish attempts to throw it.

Yarn is your second edge for hooking light-biters. The addition of a tuft of colorful yarn just ahead of your hook and below the drift bobber will add color contrast to your lure, plus make it

very difficult for a fish to spit out the hook. Once taken, the yarn can become tangled in the fish's teeth and every effort to get rid of the lure will send another signal to you to set the hook.

NOTE: when using yarn, always make sure it's not so long that it covers or interferes with the hook point.

Any momentary slowing or stopping of a drifted lure, slack line or a tap that shouldn't be there should be answered by setting the hook HARD. In drift fishing, if you're in doubt, always **set the hook!**

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Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

difficult to discern from the lure's