

FISH TALES

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Port Austin featured rough weather, good fishing

The weekend of May 30 found the Detroit Area Steelheaders at Port Austin for another stop on the boat tournament trail. With all 25 boats in the fleet catching fish, everyone brought a cooler full of fish to the weigh-in on Saturday afternoon, and a good time was had by all!

The fishing on Saturday morning began after a 90-minute delay due to high winds and rough water. But the adverse conditions couldn't stop the event, and at 7:30 a.m. the go-ahead was given and the tourney was on.

Most everybody had a tough morning fighting the big waves, but that didn't stop them from catching fish. At the first fish-call, just about every boat reported at least one fish in the box, with Lake Trout the majority of fish caught. By the end of the day, that trend held fast – the lion's share of fish taken was Lakers.

Third place in this year's event went to Chris Nytko and his boat "Aquarius II," with a total catch of 90.13 pounds. Second place honors were claimed by Bob Buerio and his mighty craft "Mickey Mouse Club" with an all-Laker catch totaling 97.60 pounds, a con-



1st Place: "TRENA DAWN" with Don Redmond, Blaise Pewinski, George Pewinski, and Ed Fradze.

A very quiet hero . . .

The big story of the Port Austin tournament turned out to be the weather. On Friday before the event, high winds and lightning made for hazardous travel on land and water. On Saturday, the start of the tourney was delayed 90 minutes by strong winds and high seas. But Sunday brought the killer.

Long-time friend and Detroit Area Steelheader Fred Hynick, who fishes aboard Howard York's boat "Golden Oldie," had just finished getting Howard's boat on its trailer before the expected arrival of bad weather (complete with tornado warnings). He then returned to the Port Crescent campground to pack up his tent and head for home just as the storm hit with merciless fury.

While sitting in his car waiting for the storm to let up, Fred saw a large tree fall on a tent with a man and his wife inside. With no concern for his own safety, Fred went out into the storm and was able to get the woman out of the tent. He went back to the tent,

removed the large tree parts from the stricken camper's back and head, and cleared an airway so the man could start to breath again. Fred stayed with the victim for about 20 minutes until emergency personnel arrived and transferred the injured man to hospital.

Three people died in storms that day in Michigan, with more than 50 suspected tornados reported in the state, but Fred, through his valiant efforts, tried to save at least one. Unfortunately, the young injured man died of his injuries, and our hearts go out to his family and friends.

I've sat with Fred a few nights around a campfire with other fishermen, and he may say only 4- or 5-dozen words in an evening. But when danger struck, it wasn't words that were needed but rather a man with a big heart, and that turned out to be Fred.

Thank you, Fred, for your efforts and courage. Your club, and I, are very proud of you!

- Ray Banbury

siderable haul!

But Don Redmond and his "Trena Dawn" crew grabbed top honors for the day with an impressive 108.13-pound catch, consisting mostly of Lake Trout. Hats off to Don and his crew for a job well-done!

The Big Fish pool results were just about a replay of the overall tournament standings. Number three was a 10.14-pound Laker caught aboard "Trena Dawn," while second place also went to a Laker, this one tipping the scales at 13.09 pounds for Hank Baczynski and "Sinsation." But the top fish of the day (what else, another Lake Trout!) was weighed in by Bob Buerio and "Mickey Mouse Club." Great work by all of you and your crews!

Unfortunately, with tornado warnings, high winds, and heavy rain, the Team Doubles competition scheduled for Sunday had to be cancelled. And with that, the Port Austin tournament for 1998 drew to a close.

I hope everyone had fun and is looking forward to next year at Port Austin. Thanks again – we'll see you on the water!

- Ron Hartman

• More Port Austin pictures on Page Three •

For Your Information . . .

FELLOWS MARINA TO HOST LADIES DAY AT OSCODA

On Saturday, June 27, Detroit Area Steelheaders will travel to Oscoda for the annual Ladies Day tournament.

The past few years, salmon have dominated the interest of Steelheaders, but skippers should remember that the Lake Trout and Steelhead can be plentiful in this area at this time of the year.

For those who have not participated in our Ladies Day tournament before, the rules are simple: men can set lines, net fish, and drive the boat, but only women can handle the pole after hook-up.

The tournament headquarters is again at Fellows Marina, and you can reserve a slip there by calling (517) 739-2525.

As in years past, we are asking that each crew bring a dish to pass at the potluck picnic which follows the weigh-in. Just one reminder: keep the perishables such as potato salad on ice while out on the lake. I don't want any of it to spoil, because I really love potato salad!

The Saturday schedule begins with the Skippers' meeting, at 5:00 a.m. at the Fellows Marina office, with the tourney starting at 6:00 a.m. outside the mouth of the Au Sable River. There will be 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Fish Calls, and we will all pull lines at the time announced at the Skippers'

meeting. The potluck will start when the weigh-in is completed, or at 3:00 p.m. if fishing is cancelled.

- Doug Karakas, "Capt'n Hook"

NEW SUMMER RAFFLE ANNOUNCED

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will have a new raffle this summer. The prize will be the lucky winner's choice of a new Remington rifle, shotgun or muzzle loader.

The rifle is a Remington Model 700ADL with walnut stock and hard case, with several different calibers from which to choose. The shotgun is a Remington Model 870 Express combo with rifled barrel and hard case. The muzzle loader is a Remington Model 700 with a black fiber stock and a 4X Bushnell scope. We'll also throw in a couple of boxes of ammo!

The winner will go to Wessel's Gun Service, Inc. in Warren to select his gun of choice. Wessel's is located at 4000 E. Nine Mile Rd., in case you would like to check out any of the fine guns and shooting supplies they handle.

Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each. They will be available from Directors beginning at the upcoming June membership meeting. The drawing is set for the August membership meeting. Don't miss out - get your tickets early. Good luck to all!

Many anglers offer public support for Platte Hatchery discharge permit plan

More than 100 concerned individuals showed up for a public meeting in Benzonia on May 11 concerning a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Platte River Hatchery discharge permit proposal. According to reports, most of those on hand were anglers in support of the permit proposal. By some estimates, support for the DNR proposal ran as high as 90% among those in attendance.

Initially, about 33 statements were taken for and against the permit proposal, but according to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) personnel, an additional 24 people wanted to submit comments, so it was decided to hold the public comment period open until May 28.

While a decision on the permit application by DEQ won't be made for several weeks, those present believe the public comments at the meeting were overwhelmingly favorable to the application. However, DEQ spokesmen point out that, as is often the case in such hearings, most of the pro and con comments offered were of an emotional nature, and little factual information was presented.

Even so, DNR sources are confident that the permit ultimately will be issued. They point out that Judge Brown, who is overseeing the controversial permit application process, is aware that the DNR plans now are to go ahead with the proposed hatchery renovations, which will result in environmental and management improvements. The judge has already given nodding approval to those renovations.

With the resignation of Court Master Joe Fuss from his position with the court (effective July 1), Judge Brown has notified DNR Fish Chief Kelley Smith of the court's intention to hire a new master, and has asked both sides to submit new names to him for consideration for the influential position. The DNR is hoping for greater input to the new Master appointment.

- Dan Thomas

From *Weekly News - Fishery News of the Great Lakes Basin*, May 31, 1998, published on the Internet by the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE
JULY ISSUE
OF
FISHIN' TALES
IS
JUNE 30, 1998**

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

(Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. • American Legion Hall, 1815 Rochester Road, Royal Oak)

JUNE 30, 1998 • **JULY 28, 1998** • **AUGUST 25, 1998**

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
June 27	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
July 25	PORT AUSTIN (Walleye Outing)	Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159
Aug. 1	PRESQUE ISLE	Mark Stosiak, (810) 777-9833
Aug. 15	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034
Aug. 29	MANISTEE	Paul Schoenrade, (810) 773-6477
Sept. 12	HARBOR BEACH (Make-up, if needed)	Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159

WANT ADS

FOR SALE - 2 Cannon Mag 10 downriggers, \$400.00.

Call Ron Maschke: (734) 459-2140
FOR SALE - 1978 Sea Ray 24-foot Cuddy, 260 h.p., new canvas, Raytheon V700 graph, \$7000.00. Also selling Beavertroll, \$325.00.

Call: (810) 778-4605

Federal judge orders tribal gill nets pulled

Kalamazoo federal judge Dick Enslin has ordered an abrupt halt to expanded gill netting in the Rogers City/Alpena area in northern Lake Huron. Based on testimony from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists, he found the netting a violation of the 1985 agreement with the tribes, and a threat to Lake Trout and Whitefish stocks.

It is believed that this is the first time that a federal court has decided a tribal netting issue based on the resource.

The Bay Mills tribe issued "assessment" (research) permits to six tribal members to set 6,000 feet of gill net each (36,000 feet total) up to 55 miles south of the tribal netting zone in northern Lake Huron established by the 1985 agreement. Those six commercial tribal fishermen are Timothy and Patrick Kinney, David and Roland Menominee, Kenneth Teeple, and Gerald Jesse.

The State of Michigan was able to show that it would suffer irreparable harm if an injunction forbidding a proposed assessment fishery in Lake Huron was not issued.

The court will review the issues on August 7 to determine whether it should continue the temporary injunction as a permanent ban.

Enslin ruled May 11 that the tribal commercial fishermen who were placing gill nets

in Lake Huron from the Hammond Bay area to Alpena in order to "assess" (???) the outcome, had to pull nets and "cease and desist fishing activities pursuant to said permits."

"What they were doing was beyond the 1985 agreement," said Frank Krist of the Lake Huron Task Force. "Judge Enslin felt the agreement was a good one, and that until the year 2000, it will remain the agreement."

According to Krist, to make negotiations for a new agreement in 2000 even more difficult, the tribes have expressed their desire to move into Lake Huron waters from Hammond Bay to Alpena.

Lake Huron DNR fisheries research chief Jim Johnson of Alpena estimates the tribal commercial fishermen were killing about 1,800 Lake Trout daily, along with as much as six tons of whitefish in the nine days they fished before the injunction. The seven miles of net being set daily, Johnson pointed out, equated to 9,000,000 feet of net per year.

The expanded tribal netting was supported by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists, who testified in court that it really was research and not commercial fishing the tribal fishermen were engaged in under the tribal "assessment" permits, and would not harm the fishery. USFWS biolo-

gists helped tribal biologists write the permits.

State fisheries managers have always viewed federal sponsorship of tribal netting as a strategy to reclaim control of the Great Lakes fishery. Until the state exerted its claim to manage the fishery by banning gill nets and introducing Salmon in the 1960's, it was controlled by the old U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. That agency was dismantled, and state courts upheld the ban on gill nets.

Federal courts upheld treaty rights advocated by federal attorneys and biologists to return tribal gill nets to the Great Lakes.

State biologists evidently were able to discredit claims by federal and tribal biologists that the expanded fishery was for assessment, not commercial, purposes.

USFWS fisheries biologist Jerry McClain said he had concerns about the size of the Lake Huron 'study', but said it wasn't up to him to notify the state. "This was not my study - a Fish and Wildlife Service study. I was in on the design of the sampling protocol, just in terms of what data would be collected, the scheduling and monitoring on boats," McClain said.

- Dan Thomas

From Weekly News - Fishery News of the Great Lakes Basin, May 31, 1998, published on the Internet by the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.

PORT AUSTIN TOP FINISHERS



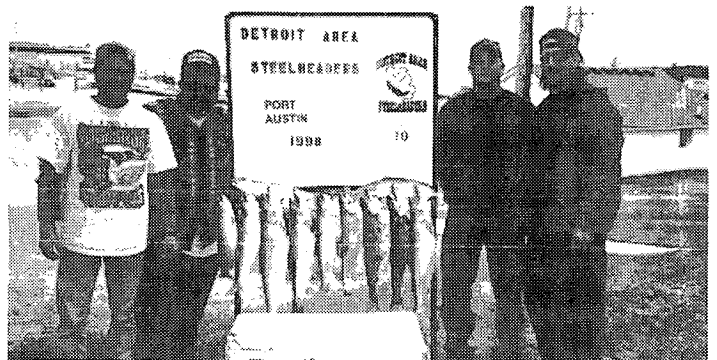
2nd Place: "MICKEY MOUSE CLUB" with Bob Buero, Shelly Kline, Chris Buero, and Nick Buero.



3rd Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Chris Nytko, Darek Nytko, Daniel Castillo, and Joey Monticello.



5th Place: "LUCKY FALCON" with Bob Golaszewski, Lee Lucklear, and Fred Covrey.



10th Place: "CAPT'N HOOK II" with Doug Karakas, Jeff Lawless, Jamie Terry, and Jay Hoch.

Special People enjoy another Lake Erie outing!

Saturday, June 13 became a Special Day in the lives of 22 Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and their crews. That was the day your fellow club members treated 43 physically challenged Special People to a morning of Walleye fishing, followed by a cook-out, and the presentation of trophy awards and a gift bag filled with goodies and a lot of surprises.

The day dawned to a beautiful sunrise with mild temperatures, but, unfortunately, the weather forecast for the balance of the day was not very good. Storms were expected to move into our area on and off all day long. Our special guests began to arrive at around 7:00 a.m., full of excitement and anticipation. Happily, some old acquaintanceships were renewed, for yet another year had gone by since we had last seen one another.

Several Special People immediately started requesting to fish with their own "personal skippers" from prior years, so Linda Bredernitz (co-ordinator and supervisor for the Monroe Intermediate School District) and I began the assigning of all the Special People to the participating boats.

By 8:00 a.m., all skippers and their crews had joined up, and were busy planning their strategies to sock it to the Walleye as they motored out of beautiful Toledo Beach Marina onto wind-blown Lake Erie. It wasn't very long before I received the first of many calls from skippers reporting that they had people aboard who were not feeling too good, and soon there was a steady stream of boats motoring back to shore.

Those boats which chose to stay out did not do all that well, due to an apparent lack of

Walleyes in Michigan waters. Radio reports had it that most of the concentrations of fish were in Ohio waters, and that, unfortunately, was just too long a boat ride for us to take with our guests.

The last of the boats was off the water by noon, and everyone was getting ready to join in all the festivities ashore that we had planned for our special guests. Even as we were arriving back at the marina, we found that the shore volunteers had the grill going, with the hot dogs cooking and the coney chili simmering.

After all the hot dogs, ice cream, and watermelon were eaten, it was time to present trophies and goodie bags (donated by a very special group of supporters!) to each of our Special People guests. In addition, our guests received Polaroid photos of themselves with their skippers, holding their catch and their trophy. Once the presentations were done, the fish were taken to the fish cleaning station, where six to eight skippers cleaned and packaged up some tasty Walleye fillets for all the Special People to take home with them.

At this point, we realized that the day's activities were slowly drawing to a close, and that soon it would be time for us to start making our good-byes.

If there is a sad part to what is always an otherwise happy and fun-filled day, it was now, when we gave and received the hugs and thank-you's from our very Special People. It was tough to say "So long," but at least we could say, "See you next year!"

I think all who participated will agree that we have some wonderful memories to cherish and remember throughout the year.

Let me offer heartfelt appreciation to the supporters listed below, and special thanks to the skippers, crews and shore volunteers for all their help in making the 1998 Special People outing another one to remember!

Thank you very much!!!

- Dick Shirk

1998 "SPECIAL PEOPLE" WALLEYE OUTING SUPPORTER HONOR ROLL

...

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...

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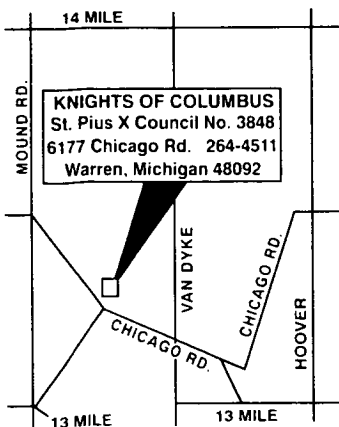
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"LITTLE BILL"
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Here's how to get to DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER Monthly Membership Meetings



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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

