

FISHIN' TALES

VOL. XII * NO. 4

PUBLISHED BY THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

APR. 1997

MEETING MOVED TO APRIL 22

April 22 meeting to focus on Rivercrab

Fred McDonald (Captain of the 30 POUNDER, Manistee) & Kevin Hughes of Manistee County Sportfishing Association, the organization that runs the Orsini Fish Hatchery on the Betsie River will be the featured speakers at the April Membership meeting.

This will also be our last chance to discuss details and information regarding the Rivercrab tournament. Be there to find out the details.

We expect to have new hats (\$8) and shirts (\$10) available at the meeting.

Finally, President Don Redmond has set aside time to have a swap period at the April meeting. Bring any good equipment or lures to sell. If you are looking for a bargain, check it out!

YOUR MAILING LABEL HAS YOUR EXPIRATION DATE ON IT. BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP; ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE FISHING FOR THE CLUB IN THE RIVERCRAB
!!!!!!

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

REMINDER, DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS; the Chuck Muer River Crab Salmon Stakes is coming on April 26.

This is a Boat Trolling Tournament that counts in our schedule towards determining "Skipper of the Year" award. It is also a tournament where we as a club will be competing for the 1st prize of \$5,000

for the most total weight. It is very important to our annual budget that we add this money to our treasury. Many of our club functions and our ability to make more contributions to worthy causes are directly affected by winning this prize.

The Blue Water Clinic, Blue Water sport fishing Assoc. and the C. A. Muer Corporation (River Crab Restaurant) co-sponsors donate proceeds to the Blue Waters Clinic's McKinnon Family Center and other child abuse/neglect programs throughout Michigan.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will also have a special drawing at our May membership meeting. If the club wins the \$5,000 we will draw (5) \$100 prizes from a list of boats who weighed in at least one fish in the tournament. We will draw (1) \$100 prize if we don't win the club prize.

Therefore, a single small fish could mean the difference between you winning a \$100 or not.

All fish must be 18 inches to count (Overall length, not just 18" to the fork) Please weight in any 18" fish you catch. Lake trout will not be eligible as lake trout season will not yet be open.

BE SURE TO GET YOUR NEW FISHING LICENSE!

Prizes this year will be \$250 awarded for each category of King, Coho, Steelhead, Brown Trout and Super

Skipper. You must be pre-registered to win one of these prizes.

A \$10 ticket includes your individual entry fee, a raffle ticket where the grand prize is a trip for four to Disney World. (5 days and 4 nights for 2 adults and 2 children) First prize is a trip for two to Napa Valley, California Winery (3 days and two nights for two adults.) There are three other great prizes, too. Dinner tickets are available for an additional \$13 per person.

So, benefit the charities, and give our club a chance at the \$5,000 club prize. Sign up at the April 22nd membership meeting. (The April meeting will be the last chance to sign up)... or call Chris Nytko at (810) 254-7426 for information on mail in entries.

June Meeting

George Ritchie will speak at the June meeting. The subjects covered are expected to be dodger/squid techniques and antique tackle.

ATTENTION SKIPPERS!

If you plan on taking advantage of paying your annual trolling fees in advance, May 17 at Port Sanilac will be the deadline. If you paid \$25 for the St. Joe tournament, you can apply that to the annual fee of \$125. If you intend on participating in all or most of our tournaments, you could save up to \$50 versus the regular \$25 per tournament entry fee. Contact Chris Nytko regarding payment of fees or for any questions. (810) 254-7426

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ST. JOE TOURNAMENT CANCELED REPLACEMENT MOVED TO LEXINGTON MAY 3!

The planned St. Joe boat trolling tournament has been canceled due to lack of dock space in Benton Harbor/St. Joe. Tournament chairman Chris Nytko and President Don Redmond rescheduled the tournament for Lexington on the same date; May 3.

The Lexington tournament will start with a 5 am captains meeting by the bath house. The tournament will start at 6am. with fish calls at 9 & 12. The tournament will end at 2pm with a weigh-in at 3pm. The site of the picnic and weigh -in will be announced at the skippers meeting or via radio at the end of the tournament.

Fishing reports from lower Lake Huron have been spectacular. Almost every boat that fished the weekend of April 21 reported catching fish. Several boats reported catches in the teens on both days. Kings up to 20 lbs were caught in addition to browns and some steelhead. Action was hot from the State Park to north of Sanilac. Look for bait fish! Long-A Bombers provided most of the action with clown, blueberry muffin and purple being mentioned as hot colors. Some fish were also caught on spoons.

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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



Dipsey Divers

The directional Dipsy Diver is the most advanced trolling sinker available today. Its round shape allows for multi-directional trolling and also facilitates (with a special "O-Ring") instant changes in diving capability, providing the angler with two different size divers in one.

Like all planers, the directional Dipsy Diver is held in planing position by a lead weight. But with the Dipsy, this weight is moulded into an adjustable base plate. By rotating this plate to the right or left, it tilts the planing surface, causing the diver to move to either the port or starboard side when trolled. By leaving the weight at center, the diver will track straight behind your boat.

Divers are easy to use, reset easily, always work, apply to trolling everywhere -- whether salt or fresh water -- and are simple to rig and fish. Any angler can use a diver successfully the first time out and it requires a minimum of terminal gear and storage space.

HOW IT WORKS

The special round shape and resulting multi-directional feature sets the Dipsy Diver apart from other divers/planers. The ability of the angler to add or subtract depth capability with the unique "O-Ring" (on sizes "0" and "1") is yet another outstanding feature of this diver . . . it's like getting two separate divers for the price of one. Here's how the Dipsy Diver works.

After you've tied your line to the barrel swivel at the front end of the diver and have locked the adjustable trip mechanism in place, it is ready to fish. When trolled, water pressure against the diver's planing surface causes it to dive. Shifting the base plate weight to the left or right tilts the planing surface and results in the diver descending on a pre-determined angle. This multi-directional feature is possible because the base plate contains a moulded-in weight that can be shifted in degrees.

Each degree of shift will cause a change in the angle of descent. A shift right or left as indicated on the base plate arrow (see diagram) will cause the diver to track straight, to port or to starboard.

Maximum side movement can be reached by rotating the base plate past the edge of the numbered scale and then elevating your rod as high as possible.

Because the Dipsy Diver is directional, it gives you the following advantages not obtainable with other divers or planers: A - It doubles your trolling area, as indicated in the illustration, and lures are thus exposed to fish which might not have otherwise seen them.

B - More lures can be trolled and sharp turns made without the fear of tangling.

C - Downrigger anglers particularly can take advantage of the Dipsy because it will troll to the side and not interfere with cables, allowing the use of more lines than previously possible.

D - it can be used for trolling just beneath the surface and can be tripped easily from the boat.

Size "0" and "1" Dipsy comes with a special removable "O-Ring" which, when in position, creates extra planing surface and delivers up to 20% more depth. The depth your diver attains will depend on trolling speed, diameter of line, length of line out and weight of your lure and/or added attractor such as a dodger. Light lines and small lures will produce more depth while heavy lines and large lures and/or dodgers will give less. It also is important to note that the angle of your line from boat to water DOES NOT indicate the position underwater of the Dipsy Diver, because of line belly. Write or call us for a table for calculating true side angle and depth location of your trolled Dipsy Diver.

RIGGING

Rig your Dipsy for fishing by allowing at least 4 to 6 feet of leader between the diver and lure or, when using a

dodger, have at least 48" of leader between it and the diver. Adjust the No. 1 tension screw to hold the release pin in place while trolling, but be careful not to overtighten it. Because this trip mechanism is adjustable, you'll be able to set it just right for the gear you're using. A slight tug on the line or strike by a fish should cause the pin to release.

The base plate is held in position by tension screw #2 which should be tightened just enough to hold the plate in position and still permit easy rotation for a new setting. Note: the best results with a dodger are obtained from base plate settings 0 to 2.

TROLLING TIPS

Trolling is a most efficient fishing method, particularly on big or unknown waters, as you can cover the greatest amount of water in the shortest time, allowing you to locate concentrations of fish quickly and easily. The multi-directional aspect of the Dipsy Diver means that you can cover an extremely wide swath of water on each trolling pass and draw strikes from fish that otherwise would have been missed. Because the diver can be set to run at pre-determined depths, you also have the ability to cover not only a wide section of water, but also several layers depth-wise. Once fish have been located, you can then select the right depth and begin concentrating on that particular depth and area.

Running a straight line is the least effective trolling path you can take once fish have been located. Trolling in a zig-zag or "S" pattern between two points will impart both changes of speed and depth to the Dipsy and its trailing lure . . . the kind of erratic action that spells "Easy Meal" to nearby fish.

Luhr Jensen, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031,

Make Your Own Planer Boards

Planer boards are one of the most handy things you can have for Spring salmon fishing. They allow you to spread your lines out and get them away from the boat. In fact, when the fish hear your boat coming they often move off to the side. The purpose of the planers is to put your lures right in front of those fish. They are also standard fare for walleye trolling.

Of course, you could spend a C-note and buy some really nice plastic planer boards. It is very easy to make your own. Some guys make them out of scrap pine and then paint them yellow so you and other boats can see them. A better alternative is to start with a piece of redwood. It is much lighter and you won't need to paint it. (You will want to put a couple of little flags on the top to warn other boats to not come close.)

BOAT US TOWING

For those of you who have renewed your membership with Boat US and have opted for towing insurance, the contacts at our first two ports are:

Port Sanilac:

TowBOAT/U.S. Port Sanilac Marina
Port Sanilac marina (810) 622-9651

St. Joseph

Kenn Scoggin Towing (616)849-3709

TOURNAMENT TIP

Log books are great resources. The best tournament fishermen pay attention to the details. They all keep logs of all of their catches. It's the best way to keep track of what the hot lures are (or were). Get a log and use it!

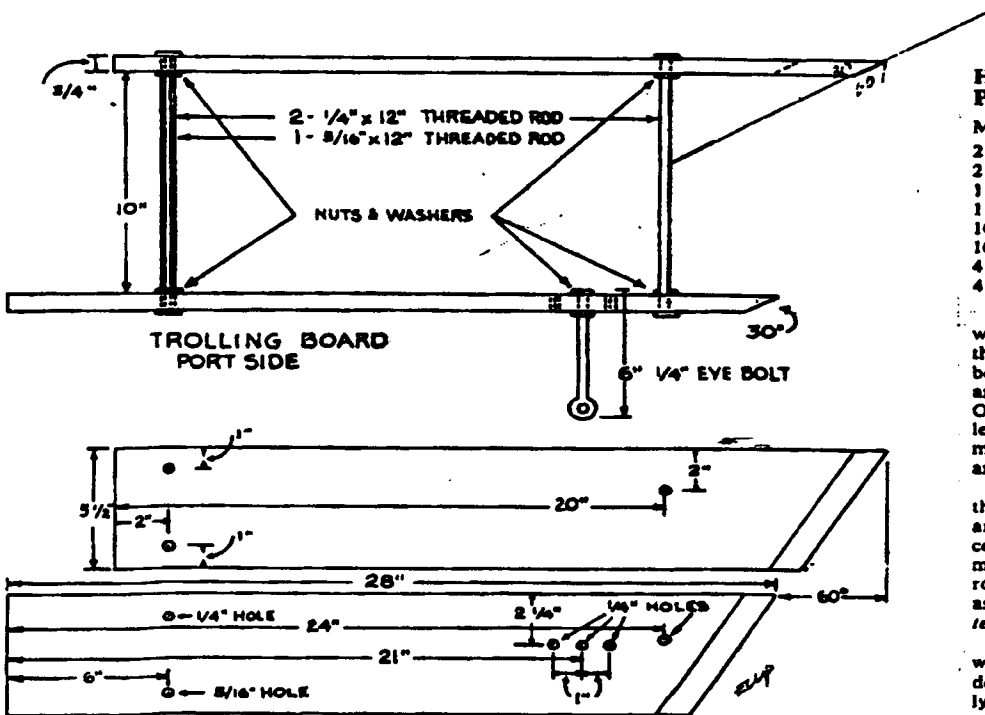
DEDUCT YOUR BOAT?

Boat owners are still able to claim a boat as a second home, subject to the criteria set by the Internal Revenue Service rules. The mortgage interest deduction for a second home may thus apply to a boat loan.

Under IRS rules, a boat is considered a second home if it has "basic living accommodations" including "sleeping space, cooking and toilet facilities" The loan must be secured, meaning the boat is held as collateral by the lender.

For more information see page A-2 of the IRS 1040 booklet.

(The way I see it is that the IRS wants you to buy a boat so much, they will pay part of the interest. Ed.)



How to Build the Double Planer Board

Materials per board

- 2 - pcs 1"X6"X28" Redwood
- 2 - pcs 12"X1/4" Threaded Rod
- 1 - pcs 12"X5/16" Threaded Rod
- 1 - pcs 1/4"X6" Eye Bolt
- 10 - pcs 1/4" Washers
- 10 - pcs 1/4" Nuts
- 4 - pcs 5/16" Washers
- 4 - pcs 5/16" Nuts

In addition to the materials above, one will need a hand saw, wood rasp to form the 30 degree angle on the face of the boards, a 1/4" and 5/16" wrench, wood sealant, highly visible paint (International Orange or white are good choices), and at least 100 feet of tether line — 80 lb. test monofilament or 200-pound test small diameter braided nylon work well.

When assembling the boards, keep these three points in mind: 1) cut or rasp the 30 angle on the front of each planer; 2) the center hole of the three eye bolt holes is normally the best; and 3) the bottom 1/16 inch rod not only strengthens the board but acts as its keel. Remember, too, reverse the pattern to make the starboard planer.

For those who would rather leave the work to someone else there are many fine double planer boards available commercially. Check the many advertised in the pages of this magazine.

St. Joe Tourney May 3

The first week of May will find us at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. The fishing techniques should be pretty much the same as those used for the River Crab.

I also recommend using some spoons as there have been some real good results reported with these in previous years. The top locations should be at the Cook Nuclear Plant, and off the junk cars about three miles south of the peir heads.

Tournament starts at 6:00 am until 2:00 pm, with a 3:00 pm weig-in at West Basin Marina in Benton Harbor. A map packet will be available at the April meeting. If you have any questions call Chris Nytko at (810) 254-7426 or Port Captain Ken Kuhar at (810) 949-4365.

PORT SANILAC MAY 17

The third saturday of May will find us back on Lake Huron at Port Sanilac. The fishing techniques should be pretty much the same as those used for the River Crab with the hot fishing expected North of port.

Tournament starts at 6:00 am with the 5:00 am skippers meeting near the Harbor Masters Office. Fish until 2:00 pm, with a 3:00 pm weigh-in at the marina. More information will be available at the April meeting. If you have any questions call Chris Nytko at (810) 254-7426 or Port Captain Paul Schoenrad at (810) 773-6477.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE WHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXSPIRES. IF IT HAS A YELLOW MARK YOU NEED TO SIGN UP!

APRIL MEMBER MEETING CHANGED TO APRIL 22.

The April regular meeting has been moved up one week so we can have a meeting prior to the River Crab. Don't forget to let your Steelheader Buddies know!

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

The Las Vegas Night was a big success for the club. Chairwomen, Mary Karakas put a ton of effort into organizing the entire event. She deserves a GIANT at-a-girl! With the help of about 35 Steelheaders, the night turned out first class. The final financial details are yet to be worked out and presented to the board, but there is no question that it was a financial success. The hall was crowded and everyone seemed to be having great fun. Based on this success, its a certainty that the club will do it again. When we do, please volunteer to help or at least show up and enjoy the fun.

SPECIAL DATES

Reg meeting April 22
Reg meeting May 27
Reg meeting June 24

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

River Crab April 26
St Joe May 3
Port Sanilac May 17
Pt Austin June 7
Special People June 14
Oscoda
Ladies Day June 28
Erieau Walleye July TBA
Ludington August 2
Manistee August 23
Harbor Beach Sept. 6

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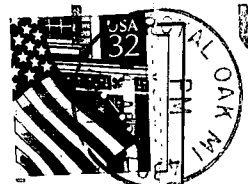
Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of issues and events affecting sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers, others waters and lands.

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