



FISHING TALES



“Special People” Outing is set for June 14

This year’s Special People Outing will be held on June 14 on Lake Erie, when Detroit Area Steelheaders will be taking some very special people out for a day of walleye fishing.

The day’s activities will take place at Toledo Beach Marina. Once again, as it has for the past several years, Marina management has agreed to support our event by furnishing the facilities needed for our post-fishing picnic, as well as dockage for our boats.

Through the years, this Outing has become a very special day in the lives of the Special People from Monroe County schools, and in the lives of the Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and crew who provide the boats and the

know-how to make it all happen.

Last year, approximately 30 Special People took part in the fun and excitement, and for 1997 I think there will be at least that many or more taking part. I believe we’ll need at least 25 to 30 boats to accommodate all those who would like to join us.

As I mentioned earlier, Toledo Beach Marina will be furnishing slips for our boats, but the number is limited, so it will be first come first served on Friday evening (June 13).

Crew assignments will be made on Saturday morning at approximately 7:30 a.m. at the Marina bath house. The picnic and awards will begin around the noon hour at the same

location.

If you can help, either as a Skipper, crew member or on-shore help, please contact me at the May Member Meeting, or call me as soon as possible at the numbers shown below.

If you have never participated in this event before, you have been missing one of the Greatest Joys of the Year, especially 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 giving them a Special Day in their life.

-Dick Shirk
Days: (810) 777-8900
Evenings: (810) 749-9493

It was a stormy Saturday at Lexington!

Our club’s first trip to the port of Lexington resulted in the tournament being moved from Saturday, May 3 to Sunday, May 4 due to a predicted severe storm. On Friday, the sun shone, the winds were calm, and fishing was good, at least for our “Mary K” crew. We were 6 for 10, including one 11-pound, 2-ounce Steelhead. Scotty O. never considered giving up that pole to this Captain!

Sunday morning the tournament started on time, with a cold, stiff offshore wind and temperatures at freezing. Early reports quickly revealed that the boats which had gone north were finding the early success, with Camp Cavelle being the place to be.

Early leaders at the first Fish Call included “Trena Dawn” with 4 fish, and “Blue Star,” “Capt’n Hook,” and “Rupe” with 3 fish each. By the 11:00 a.m. Fish Call, “Blue Star” had moved into the lead, with 5 fish in the box, closely followed by “Golden Oldie,” “Lucky Falcon,” “Rupe,” and “Trena Dawn” all reporting 4 fish each.

Stanley Bilek and “Blue Star” ended up with his first win, while Robert Golaszewski’s “Lucky Falcon” and Gasper Randazzo’s “Nothing But Trouble” took second and third respectively. Congratulations to Stan on his first win, and to Gasper, a new Detroit Area Steelheader, with a nice Top Three finish!



1st Place: “BLUE STAR” with Stanley Bilek and Jan Piwowarski.

I would like to offer personal thanks to my best fishing buddy for getting up at 4:00 a.m. and filling in at the last minute. Again, thanks Adele!

Despite the Saturday storm, our first Lexington tournament was a success, and I am looking forward to returning next year. With

stable weather, the numbers and size of the fish would have been most impressive, and Lexington is only an hour from home!

— Ken Kuhar
“Mary K”

More Lexington pictures and complete standings are inside on Page 3.

'Bluewater Blues' at 1997 River Crab

On Saturday, April 26, the Detroit Area Steelheaders participated in the 1997 River Crab tournament. Based on the pre-tourney fishing reports coming out of the area, there was lots of excitement going in to the event. The weekend before, most boatshad caught fish, with many in double digits.

Alas, Mother Nature often has her own plans, and this year she sent a cold front just before the tournament. The water on Saturday was cold and clear, and, as you might expect, the bait fish and salmon had moved. About the only place that was productive was mouth of the St. Clair River, where warmer, stained water held good numbers of fish. Unfortunately, it did not hold good numbers of Detroit Area Steelheaders.

The Bluewater Sportfishing Association had 65 boats registered in the tourney, with 39 boats weighing in 851.31 pounds of fish. We had 60 boats entered, with 35 boats bringing 523.85 pounds of fish to the scales. The two-club total catch was a whopping 1,375.16 pounds in this great tournament, which has raised more than \$900,000 for charities since its creation in 1985 by the late Chuck Muer!

The tournament was not without success stories. The big winner, as always, was the charities, and the people they serve. Each year, this event raises close to \$100,000 for the Bluewater Mental Health Clinic and similar charities across the state.

Bob Ksionzek's "Last Dime" crew stayed close to Port Sanilac harbor and found enough fish to take first in our D.A.S. tourney. "Last Dime" spends a lot of time cruising the Thumb area, and they demonstrated their skills and knowledge of the area by recording an 8-fish, 50.10-pound catch. Second place went to Robert Buero and "Mickey Mouse Club" with 9 fish at 48.30 pounds, while Rob Helzer of "Sea Dice" took third with 7 fish at 39.95 pounds.

As the DAS did not win the \$5,000 Club prize, there'll be a \$100 drawing at the May meeting from the list of boats that weighed in at least one fish. We'll also have more tournament details available there.

TOP RIVER CRAB FINISHERS

1)	Bob Ksionzek	50.10 lbs.
2)	Robert Buero	48.30 lbs.
3)	Rob Helzer	39.95 lbs.
4)	Darwin Gregg	38.00 lbs.
5)	Paul Colone	30.35 lbs.
6)	Mike Wakulski	30.10 lbs.
7)	Don Redmond	26.80 lbs.
8)	Chris Nytko	25.75 lbs.
9)	Stan Bilek	24.00 lbs.
10)	Ed Wilczek	19.50 lbs.

LAKE HURON FISHERY NEWS

A total of 10,378,637 fish were stocked in Lake Huron in 1996, down 17.2% from the 12,165,000 stocked in 1995. Of last year's total, 4,265,469 were Chinook Salmon (61% of total fish stocked), down 7% from the 1995 planting of 4,579,933. Also included in 1996 plantings were: 571,300 Brown Trout (about equal to 1995); 820,100 Rainbow Trout (down 126% from 1995); 3,313,300 Lake Trout (up 7% over 1995); 1,314,500 Walleye (down 42% compared to last year); 43,700 Atlantic Salmon and 50,300 Splake.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fingerling Rainbow Trout stocking was stopped in 1995, due to the results of Lake Michigan studies which showed stocked Rainbow Trout fingerlings provided very few returns to the fishery. In addition, there has been a shift away from the use of domestic strain Rainbow Trout to Lake Michigan strains.

Pink Salmon were first discovered in Lake Huron in 1969 in the Carp River after an accidental release into Lake Superior in 1956. Naturalized stocks are currently evident in many locations of Lake Huron. Coho Salmon were first stocked in Lake Huron in 1968, with an average of 509,000 yearlings stocked annually by the DNR between 1968 and 1989. Due to poor returns, stocking was ended in 1989.

Fish community objectives for Lake Huron describe Lake Trout as being the dominant salmonine, with Chinook Salmon considered to be widely distributed throughout the Lake and expected to have an important position in the future salmonine community in the Lake.

As noted above, the 1996 lake-wide stocking of Chinook Salmon was 4,253,069, down 326,864 from 1995. The estimated harvest from Michigan waters was 1,999,043, a 12% decline from the 1995 estimated harvest. The sport harvest comprised 50.1% of the total,

followed by the tribal commercial harvest with 32.5%, and the weir harvest at 17.4%.

Preliminary results from a current study on natural reproduction of Chinook Salmon in Michigan waters of Lake Huron indicate natural reproduction contributions range up to 30%.

Biological information on Chinook Salmon in Lake Huron is, at best, limited in Michigan waters and even less available from fish in Ontario waters. Areas on which additional information is needed include: annual lake-wide creel surveys; monitoring the presence or levels of bacterial kidney disease (BKD), thiamine, fat parasites, etc. on a lake-wide basis; attacks from sea lamprey; and the extent of natural reproduction.

Creel harvest estimates from nine index ports in the Michigan waters of Lake Huron reveal much higher Rainbow Trout harvest rates in 1995 and 1996 than in earlier years. Catch rates were the highest on record, twice as high as in 1994. In 1994 and 1995, catch rates of Brown Trout were over 10,000, the highest on record. The 1996 harvest of 4,669 fish was less than half that recorded for 1994 and 1995. Brown Trout are generally not a targeted fish in Ontario waters of Lake Huron, and are mainly caught incidentally by anglers targeting Chinook Salmon or Rainbow Trout. Approximately 1,300 Pink Salmon and 88 Atlantic Salmon were harvested in 1996.

Although stocking of Coho Salmon was terminated in 1989, they still continue to be caught in many places around Lake Huron. In the past two years, Coho Salmon catches have increased in Michigan waters of Lake Huron, probably as a result of stray natural fish from rivers on the Canadian side of the lake. Coho Salmon harvests for 1995 and 1996 were 1,897 and 1,946 respectively, more than double the previous three-year average of 897.

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

MAY 27, 1997

• **JUNE 24, 1997**

• **JULY 29, 1997**

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
June 7	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Robert Golaszewski, (810) 778-0927
June 14	SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)	Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493
June 28	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181
July TBA	ERIEAU, ONTARIO (Walleye Outing)	Steve Hamilton, (313) 881-3871
August 2	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (810) 828-8034
August 23	MANISTEE	Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
Sept. 6	HARBOR BEACH II	Stan Bilek, (810) 828-4159

TOP LEXINGTON TOURNAMENT FINISHERS



2nd Place: "LUCKY FALCON" with Lee Locklear, Dan Daniels, Robert Golaszewski and Bob Cooper.



3rd Place: "NOTHING BUT TROUBLE" with Angus and Gasper Randazzo.



5th Place: "GOLDEN OLDIE" with Bob Shultz and Howard York.



6th Place: "EAGLE III" with Paul Schoenrade, Charles Shelley and James Bell.



7th Place: "TRENA DAWN" with Doug Follows, Eric Follows, Don Remond and Darwin Gregg.



10th Place: "CAPT'N HOOK" with Ken Babicz, Kris Lawless, Mary Karakas and Doug Karakas

LEXINGTON TOURNAMENT RESULTS (May 3, 1997)

BOAT/SKIPPER	CATCH (by species & weight)	PTS.
1) BLUE STAR (Stanley Bilek)	K8.04, K7.14, K4.12, K4.10, K3.03, K3.00, K2.15	69.10
2) LUCKY FALCON (Robert Golaszewski)	K10.01, K8.15, K5.13, K3.10 K2.13	56.04
3) NOTHING BUT TROUBLE (Gasper Randazzo)	K11.06, K6.10, K3.07, K3.00	44.07
4) RUPE (Gary Ruprich)	K10.11, K3.08, K3.08, K4.12	42.07
5) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York)	K6.01, K5.09, K5.09, K2.08	39.11
6) EAGLE III (Paul Schoenrade)	K12.13, K4.06, K3.00	35.03
7) TRENA DAWN (Don Redmond)	K4.14, K4.02, K3.08, K2.09	35.01
8) TAIL WALKER (Fred Kaul)	K8.10, K4.09, K4.06	32.09
9) MARY K (Ken Kuhar)	K4.01, K3.14, K2.13	25.12
10) CAPT'N HOOK (Doug Karakas)	K3.05, K3.00, K2.08	23.13
11) HAPPY BARE (Don Anton)	K4.11, K4.03	18.14
12) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	K4.06, K3.10	18.00
13) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	K5.06, K2.03	17.09
14) MICKEY MOUSE CLUB (Bob Buero)	K4.03, K2.08	16.11
15) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	K4.11, K2.02	11.13
16) STEELIE ED (Ed Wilczek)	K2.15	7.15
17) FLOATING HOLIDAY (Dave Roehr)	K2.08	7.08

K = KING SALMON

• • •

LEXINGTON BIG FISH WINNERS

SKIPPER/BOAT	CATCH (by species & weight)
1) PAUL SCHOENRADE (Eagle III)	12-pound, 13-ounce King Salmon
2) GASPER RANDAZZO (Nothing But Trouble)	11-pound, 6-ounce King Salmon
3) GARY RUPRICH (Rupe)	10-pound, 11-ounce King Salmon

FCC begins issuing VHF license refunds

The federal requirement that VHF marine radios on recreational boats be licensed is officially dead and gone.

Now that the rules are final, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will begin returning checks and applications that came in between February and April of last year.

For boaters who paid \$115 or \$75, refunds are available only if the original license is sent in to the FCC along with a request for a refund. The amount refunded will only be for full, unused years left on the 10-year term of the license and only for the "user fee" portion of the payment. Boaters will not get the application processing fee of \$45 which they paid.

To get your partial refund, send in your license and request for refund to:

Federal Communications Commission
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-7235

- Great Lakes Basin Report

There is a related story on this subject on Page 4.

BOAT/U.S. REPORTS

BORDER CROSSING RELIEF MAY BE ON THE WAY FOR BOATERS

Recreational boaters returning to the United States from Canada may be getting some help this year. U.S. Representative Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio) introduced a bill on February 12 to resolve the U.S.-Canadian border crossing problem for boaters.

LaTourette's proposed law, H.R. 694, would eliminate the current requirement that all U.S. citizens must report in person at a port of entry or have prior clearance with an I-68 form from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) when they return from a cruise in Canada of less than 72 hours duration.

Under the current rules, an I-68 form is required for each person on board a boat returning to the U.S. These forms must be obtained in person at an INS office before leaving the United States. They used to be free, but now costs \$16 per person, or \$32 per family, for one year. Boaters who enjoy cruising back and forth to Canada have been complaining about the I-68 program for the past two years. It's especially difficult to obtain the form for unexpected guests or racing crews.

LaTourette's bill would allow U.S. citizens carrying a valid passport to enter the U.S. from Canada by small recreational boats without having I-68 forms or having to report in person if the trip lasts less than 72 hours.

BOAT/U.S. members are urged to call or write their own Representative to ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 694. The mailing address for the U.S. House of Representatives is Washington, D.C. 20515.

RULES FOR RADIO USE OUTSIDE U.S. WATERS ARE CLARIFIED

The de-licensing of marine VHF radios by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last fall raised some questions regarding cruising outside of U.S. waters.

While the FCC implements U.S. laws on all domestic waters, international treaties govern radio usage outside the U.S., and boaters must observe them. Under international rules, a vessel must have a ship station license to operate in a foreign port. In addition, the operator should also have a restricted radio-telephone operator's permit in order to transmit in a foreign country.

For Great Lakes boaters who plan to dock in a Canadian port or transmit to a Canadian land-based station, a ship station license, and radio-telephone operator's permit are still required. They are also required for those cruising to the Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean islands, Mexico, or any other foreign countries. Ship station license requirements also still apply to those using single sideband radios or Inmarsat equipment.

The ship station license still costs \$75 for 10 years (use Form 506) and the radio operator's permit is \$45 and is good for life (use Form 753). For more information, contact the FCC toll-free at (800) 322-1117.

Meanwhile, the FCC in January advised BOAT/U.S. that it has a significant backlog of refund requests to be processed for those who obtained a license after July 17, 1994 and paid the "user fee," and for those whose new applications or renewals were never processed last winter. Boaters will have to remain patient as the FCC works its way through this transition period.

Port Austin tourney on tap for June 7-8

The weekend of June 7-8 will find the Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament fleet at the port of Port Austin. This has been one of our more productive events over the past few years, and its relatively close-to-home location should make this a very popular tourney.

The skippers meeting will take place at 5:00 a.m. in the DNR parking lot. The start is scheduled for 6:00 a.m., with lines pulled at 2:00 p.m. The weigh-in will take place behind the fish cleaning station. Please check with Rob Golaszewski or Chris Nytko at the May meeting for any changes to this schedule.

One of the special features of Port Austin is the Team Doubles tournament on Sunday. For this portion of our weekend, we pair up boats based on their positions on Saturday. For example, the Saturday winner is paired with the last-place boat, the second-place boat with the next-to-last boat, and so on. This is an excellent way for new skippers to learn from some of the 'old salts' in the club, and a great way to meet new friends. We urge everyone from Saturday to participate in this fun event.

If you have never fished at Port Austin, the first thing you need to know is that there is a shallow reef running from shore all the way out to the lighthouse. **DO NOT GO BETWEEN THE LIGHTHOUSE AND THE SHORE!** Stay to the west (port, left, etc.) side of the lighthouse, and go around it on your way out of port. Make sure your LORAN or GPS is in good working order in case fog rolls in while the tournament is in progress. These can be dangerous waters if you are not careful.

The past two years, there have been good numbers of King Salmon in the area, and catching a couple of them has been a key to placing high in this event. Be ready to target Kings at dawn and then switch to Lakers as necessary to fill out your eight-fish limit. Spoons on downriggers or dipseys have proved the ticket here in the past. Good luck!

WANT ADS

FOR SALE - 1990 Champion 28' motor home, sleeps seven, rigged to tow a boat. \$23,000. Call Bob: (810) 828-8034

The **DEADLINE** for the June issue of **FISHIN' TALES** is **May 27, 1997**

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

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