



# FISHIN' TALES



## Ludington comeback continues in '95

LUDINGTON – Ludington has always been a favorite port of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. The fishing is generally very good to excellent, and several top Ludington charter boat captains are former Detroit Area Steelheader tournament participants.

Added to this is the fact that numerous thirty-pounders have been caught out of Ludington this year, with even one forty-pounder(!) caught in July. Would '95 be the year of The Comeback of this great port?

Fishing the week before the tournament had been reported as "just average." The charters were reporting fish, but mostly Lakers and Steelhead. Not many big Kings.

Friday pre-tourney fishing proved uplifting, as several club boats managed to find two or three 20-pound-plus Kings. Steve Hamilton on "Valhalla" reported three nice Kings running light line on only two 'noodle' rods. Once again, Detroit Area Steelheaders found the Kings when the locals could not. The big question for Saturday was, "Where to fish?" Should we go north to the Point, straight out to deep water, or run south to the Project?

Saturday morning arrived with a pretty good lightning show north of Ludington. Playing it safe, tournament chairman Don Redmond postponed the start until 6:30 a.m. At the beginning, boats headed in three different directions – west, south and north. The first Fish Call at 9 o'clock indicated that the fishing was going to be a little tough. "Kemo" reported four fish at the Bath House to lead. Several boats, including "Eagle II," "Lucky Falcon," "My Dream," and "Rupe" checked in with three fish each.

Again, it was uncertain where the best spot would be to finish out the morning. Most of the fish were coming on spoons fished 65'-75' deep, with boats variously reporting action in water from 120' to over 200' deep. Cloud banks kept rolling in and going either to the north or the south, leaving Lake Michigan nearly flat for our flotilla.

The noon Fish Call showed each of the top boats adding two or three fish each to the cooler. Veteran Detroit Area Steelheader Steve Hamilton and "Valhalla" made the biggest move to close in on the leaders, going from



**FIRST PLACE – "KEMO": Rob Gilbert, Bob Mitchell, Bob Gilbert and Les Gilbert.**

one fish at 9 o'clock to four at the noon check-in. His light line techniques were again proving their merit. As Steve demonstrated, it is not necessary to have a big boat, use 20-pound line and six or more rods to be competitive.

At the weigh-in, there were a few surprises. "Taz" had taken a last-minute gamble, moving to deep water (350') to fish for Steelhead. It proved the best move of the day, as the Dima-dominated crew ended up with a catch of six Steelhead and one King to latch on to second place overall. The "Kemo" crew stuck to their early morning hot spot to hold on to first place, with a mixed bag including three Kings, three Lakers, one Steelhead, and a Brown. Congratulations to the "Kemo" crew!

The Big Fish of the tournament was a 20.04-pound King weighed in by Ron Hartman, skipping the "Molly Frair." The next largest fish (18.13 pounds) went to "Valhalla," which failed to cash in on the Big Fish pool. In total, 12 of our 18 boats weighed in fish, with 45 fish taken overall: 14 Kings, 11 Lakers, 18 Steelhead, and two brown trout.

At many other ports this would have been considered an excellent catch for our fleet. But this is Ludington. This is the Golden Coast. This was the port where numerous 20-pound and 30-pound fish had been caught in recent

weeks; there had even been a 40-pounder . . . . But that's why they call it fishin', I guess.

Special thanks to the "Kemo" crew for hosting this tournament, and grilling 'burgers at Peter Copian Park for the weigh-in. All in all, it was a great tournament. The waves were extremely tolerable, the food and brew was great, and I know those big Kings are still out there . . . somewhere!

– Bob Mitchell

*More Ladies Day photos on Page Three*

### LUDINGTON TOP TEN BOATS

- 1) "Kemo" ..... Bob Mitchell (108.01)
- 2) "Taz" ..... Daniel Dima (68.14)
- 3) "Valhalla" ..... Steve Hamilton (58.08)
- 4) "Rupe" ..... Gary Ruprich (56.09)
- 5) "My Dream" ..... Jim Hardrick (50.11)
- 6) "Lucky Falcon" ..... Bob Golaszewski (48.02)
- 7) "Eagle II" ..... Paul Schoenrade (48.01)
- 8) "Molly Frair" ..... Ron Hartman (36.01)
- 9) "Happy Bare" ..... Don Anton (31.12)
- 10) "Trena Dawn" ..... Don Redmond (17.00)

**The DEADLINE for the September issue of FISHIN' TALES is August 29, 1995**

# LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT LEADERS



2nd Place - "TAZ": Daniel, Chris and Christine Dima, and Traci Knickerbocker.



3rd Place - "VALHALLA": Steve Hamilton and Mike Grzych.



4th Place - "RUPE": Gary and Bob Ruprich, Trey Williams & Geoff Hutchison.



5th Place - "MY DREAM": Jim Hardrick and crew.



6th Place - "LUCKY FALCON": Rob Golaszewski, Lee Locklear, & Larry Walters.



7th Place - "EAGLE II": Paul Schoenrade, Dave Sanders and Charles Shelly.



8th Place - "MOLLY FRAIR": Ron Hartman, Ray and Arthur Banbury.



9th Place - "HAPPY BARE": Don Anton, Jim Isom, Ralph Boland, Al Schultz & Caeser.



10th Place - "TRENA DAWN": Joel Garinger and Don Redmond.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### "HARBOR BEACH II"

#### TOURNAMENT COMING UP

Harbor Beach II will take place on September 9, at the D.N.R. launch site. The Skippers Meeting will be held at 5:30 a.m. near the Harbormaster's office. The tourney begins at 6:30 a.m., with Fish Calls at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.. We'll pull lines at 2:30 p.m. with the weigh-in set for 3:30 p.m. in the Pavillion. Call Dick Shirk at (810) 749-9493 for further details, or see him at the August meeting.

### "SPECIAL PEOPLE" TOURNAMENT SET FOR SEPTEMBER 16

This year's Special People tournament is scheduled for September 16 on Lake Erie. Toledo Beach will again act as host for the event. This tourney has become a major event for the kids from the Monroe County schools, thanks to the efforts of all the Detroit Area Steelheader Skippers who have participated in the past. This year, we are also inviting students from Canton Township to join us. Each year, the number of kids wishing to fish has increased, and so far, we've been able to accommodate everyone. For 1995, we will need about 30 skippers and boats.

Crew assignments will be made at 7:30 a.m. at the Marina's bath house. The picnic and awards will begin at noon. If you can help (as a Skipper, crew member, or shore help), please sign up at the August meeting or call me at (810) 486-5674. Also, we are looking for donations for food, pop, and any other trinkets that we can give to the kids as special awards.

I hope you all can take part and make this a very special day for the kids and the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

- Tim Graskewicz  
(810) 486-5674

## Steelhead passage at Pere Marquette River weir seen for 1996

Support for reactivating the Pere Marquette River electrical lamprey barrier by adding a sluiceway through which Steelhead can bypass the weir now appears to be increasing.

Regional fish chief John Schrouder reports that Department of Natural Resources personnel have been meeting with fishermen, property owners and business people to explain the concept.

The lamprey barrier, near Custer, was used in 1989 and 1990 to successfully block upstream migration of spawning lamprey. Operation was halted in response to complaints that it also blocked upstream migration of Steelhead.

Schrouder now proposes to upgrade the weir and install a fish passage device, for a one-time cost of about \$390,000. Operating the weir would eliminate the need for treating the river system with chemicals to kill lamprey larvae.

The fish passage system has proven effective in West Coast streams. It involves a sort of trough through which water is pumped

to attract Steelhead, but block lamprey.

Schrouder points out that the every-fourth-year chemical treatments cost around \$500,000. In addition to killing lamprey, the treatments are blamed for reducing aquatic insect numbers and, sometimes, killing trout and other fish.

A lamprey treatment is slated for later this summer. It is estimated the chemical treatment will eliminate 31,000 adult lamprey from Lake Michigan's population of approximately 100,000.

In addition to controlling lamprey reproduction and passing Steelhead through, Schrouder states that installation of the fish ladder will allow biologists to determine how many Steelhead and salmon are produced in the Pere Marquette River.

He adds that if the device fails to pass Steelhead, the weir will be shut down. However, based on the experience in Oregon, he is confident it will work and probably become a prototype for other Great Lakes lamprey-producing trout streams.

From the *North Woods Call*, June 7, 1995.

# Coming Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren  
**AUGUST 29, 1995 • SEPTEMBER 26, 1995 • OCTOBER 24, 1995**

### BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Port Captain
August 26	ROGERS CITY	Leon Van Eden, (810) 293-1261
September 9	HARBOR BEACH II	Robert Bressler, (313) 937-8795
September 16	SPECIAL PEOPLE	Tim Graskewicz (810) 486-5674

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# “Otto” signs up for the “Half R’s” crew!

For about 12 years, I’ve been a Detroit Area Steelheader. It’s been great fun trying to win a tournament. First, it was aboard “Tooth Fairy,” and then the “Half R’s.” In those 12 years, I have finished first just one time – the 1989 River Crab.

Every time I get close to winning, something happens. Here a few examples of what I’ve experienced.

In 1989 at Port Austin, I had a crew of two and we hammered the Kings (7), and lost 2 or 3 biggies. “Kemo” had 8 big Lakers to take first, while we ended up second.

Two years ago at the River Crab, we had a cooler full of fish, including a 16.5-pound Steelhead. Then we caught and weighed a 17.5-pound King. As I attempted to put it in the cooler, the King cut my hand, I managed to drop it short of the cooler, and we ended up losing it! We finished seventh in the tourney, but would have won if I had been able to put that King in the cooler!

Then there was the 1994 River Crab. “Half R’s” had 7 fish in the box by 11:00 a.m. Just six miles south of Lexington, our helmsman fell asleep at the wheel! With five fishermen aboard and ten lines in the water, we watched the planer boards crisscross each other – instant spaghetti!!

This year, while I set lines, I asked the helmsman to keep a straight course with the wind. He replied, “If you don’t like the way I’m steering, you steer the @\$!\$+%# boat!” I took over the helm. About 11:30 a.m., I asked the crew to check the lines. I was told that the

crew was “on lunch break.”

My regular crew disappears from time to time: Ray’s working on a big case; Robbie has to pick up daughter from the hospital; Warren must take Mother-In-Law to the Ann Arbor Art Fair; Ritchie must close books for the corporation . . . Finally, Ray Glime, my partner, says, “Let’s get “Otto” (an Autohelm Sport Pilot). So I met “Otto.”

My wife, Joyce, says she will go fishing with me. But she can’t put the lines down or use the electric downriggers. After arriving at Manistee, we go out to test Otto. Don Redmond gave me his ‘10-4’, and we ran out. I put out one line and started to get the kinks caused by our last crew out of my electric downriggers. A 19-pound King hit and we landed it. Otto, the Autohelm Sport Pilot, was working great, but we had no ice on board, so we headed back to port.

On tournament day, Joyce and I decided to go back to where we had taken that big King. Our new helmsman, Otto, was steering, we caught 6 fish and lost a heartbreaker before Don Redmond stopped the tourney. At the weigh-in, I figured we were in first place. I was feeling like Don Quixote – I’ll attack a

windmill with a single sword. What a coup! If only I can pull it off!! Imagine, an elderly couple winning first place against the experienced, legendary Super Skippers of the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

Back at the motel that afternoon, I prepared six rods for Sunday, although we could use only four at one time. Most of the time, I was only able to get 3 lines down. The wind lay down later, and some of the boats went out again. We rested up for Sunday.

We fished hard Sunday, but only caught 1 small Laker. I figured we would need 2 large, or 3 good, fish to win, and I was right. “Happy Bare” found the magic lure (pearl J-Plug with red head) and caught 3 big fish. I had left my tackle box of J-Plugs at home – crushed again!

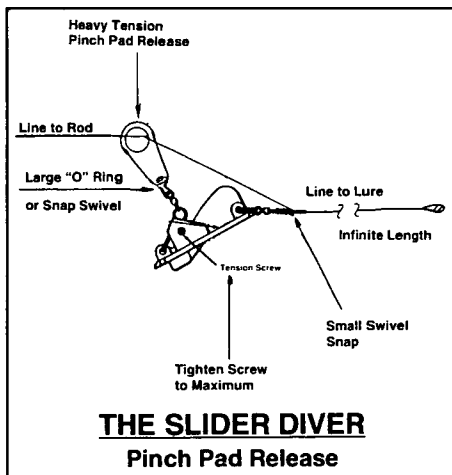
Don Anton of “Happy Bare,” the best Skipper, won the tourney, with our “Half R’s” in second place. Golfer would say we choked again. The French would say, “*C’est la vie.*” That’s life.

“Otto” is now officially installed as a member of the “Half R’s” crew:

- His little red eye winks to tell me he’s ready if I need him when I turn on the power supply switch.
- He gives me two short beeps when turning to port and one short beep when turning to starboard.
- He never eats my last sandwich or drinks my last can of pop.
- Most important, he takes up little room and maintains the Captain’s course.
- He doesn’t take a lunch break or read the newspaper.

Otto did his part, giving “Half R’s” a chance for first place at Manistee. I was thinking about saying to Otto, “This could be the start of a beautiful friendship.” But I think someone (perhaps it was Humphrey Bogart in the movie “*Casablanca*”) said that before!

–Ron Huey  
“Half R’s”



## 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 1995 season. Contact:  
**BILL SHACKLETON, (313) 422-3386**  
**DOUG KARAKAS, (810) 545-1181**  
**LEON VAN EDEN, (810) 293-1261**


**Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.**  
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