



FISHIN' TALES



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GEORGE RICHEY TO SPEAK!

FEBRUARY MEETING

George Richey will be the featured speaker at the February 25 membership meeting. George is well known for his flies and squids and will touch on these techniques for salmon and trout fishing. Be sure to be there. Last month George Vidusic missed out on the cash drawing. The pot goes to \$60 for a member if their name is drawn and they are present.

SHOWS CONTINUE

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will have our display at Outdoorama (2/21-3/1) and the Palace (3/5-8). Call Mike Wakulski at if you can help (585-6307).

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament takes place on May 2. Again this year, the River Crab is the first tournament on our club schedule.

Mr. Andy Remenselnik, of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association; co-sponsor of the event; will be at our Feb. 25th meeting. Andy will discuss the rules and prizes at this meeting. (Trip for two to Hawaii is the top prize)

The Bluewater Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic of Port Huron and seven other Michigan agencies benefitted 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.

If you have any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact Don

Redmond at 23655 E. Scott, Mt Clemens, Mi. 48043 or call (313) 469-8344.

BLUEWATER THANK YOU.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders recently received a Thank You from the Bluewater Sportfishing Assoc. for the \$1,000 donation that we made.

The donation was made to help support the placing of an artificial reef off Lakeport State Park in lower Lake Huron. At this time the reef appears to be doing all that it was projected to do; attract fish.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following memberships are about to expire! Please renew if you haven't.

Phil Andres	Don Anton
Charles Burns	John Derkacz
John Finger	Larry Harvey
Fred Hipp	Edward Horen
Jim Nichols	Robert Novak
Chris Nytko	Richard Roberts
James Sullivan	Howard York
Richard Wroblewski	

WINTER TIME TROLLING TIPS

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 our Spring Show 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 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.



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SPRING STEELHEAD

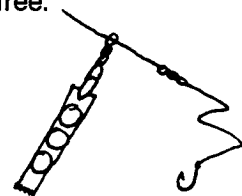
What's better, lite line with spawn or heavier line with spinners or hard baits? Ask most die hard steelheaders and they will give you an ear full. That's almost like asking if you are Republican or Democrat. The lite liners will tell you about the finesse or sportiness of the lite line. They will tell you how fickle Mr. Steelhead can be; especially in low water conditions; and they will be right. The hard bait fisherman's eyes will glaze over and he will tell you about the vicious strikes you can get with a hard bait. He will tell you about enticing steelhead out from trees or behind rocks to hit his lure and how his method works best in high water conditions; and he too will be right. So what is the answer? The answer is that both methods are great ways to catch steelhead. However, it is mostly a personal decision. The key is to first pick one method or the other and stick with it. Learn all you can and fish beside vets who know how to do the technique you choose. (By the way, don't cast spoons in the middle of a line of drifters or visa versa unless you want to see if you can swim in waders.) This is one case where it is far better to be a master of one technique than mediocre at two.

All of the really great river fisherman have mastered one technique or the other. Sure there are some that use both, but when the chips are down, they will have their own preference. If you can't decide, grab some of the river rats at the meetings or talk to them at the Spring show. The one thing that they both agree on is that they love to catch steelhead.

LITE LINER TIP

Have you tried a slinky? It's a piece of hollow cord that holds your split shot. West Coast steelheaders found that putting their shot inside these cords significantly reduced hangups. The first slinkys were made from parachute cord. You can now buy them commercially or make your own. Basketball hoop netting is another source for the cord. Cut off a 4-6" length of cord. Seal off one end by using a flame. Fill with different numbers or sizes of shot. Seal off the other end and you're ready to go.

Use a snap swivel to hook through 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. Tie your leader to the other end of the barrel swivel and you're ready to fish snag free.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Don't forget the membership drive. Sponsor 5 new members and get a free annual membership. Sponsor 5 Lifetime and get a free lifetime membership. Sponsor at least one and get in the special prize drawing. **COAST GUARD** It looks as though the Coast Guard user fee will be in effect next summer. You can get a sticker by credit card by calling (800) 848-2100.

SPRING SHOW

The Spring Show is set for March 21-22. A new addition is Antique Lures. Bring in your lures for an appraisal or to sell.

