2002 Annual

FISH'N TALES

VOL. XXVIII • No. 1 | Published by the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. | 2002 ANNUAL

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MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

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Karakas passes the gavel, thanks members, Board

We've reached the time of year when the Presidential Gavel of the Detroit Area Steelheaders passes into new hands. Let me take this occasion to look back at the year 2001 and review some of its highlights.

First and foremost, it was our best year in many years for new members coming into our club. New blood is the lifeline of any organization because new blood invariably brings new ideas and new opportunities, and, best of all, new friends. Here's a special welcome to all the newcomers who joined us last year, and a hearty invitation to everyone to join us in 2002 for some great fishing and lots of fun!

Beginning in late January and continuing into early March, as we have done for many years, we had our Steelheader booth and display set up at the indoor boat/fishing/outdoors shows. As judged by the surge of new members joining us, we enjoyed great acceptance from the public at large.

February brought us the annual Valentine's Dinner Dance and, as usual, it was a fun, wild evening, with everybody in attendance enjoying a great night – lots of laughs. Many members were also busy in February putting the finishing touches on preparations for another great Steelheader event, our extremely popular Sportsmen's Wild Game Dinner.

DOUG KARAKAS, longtime Detroit Area Steelheader and our president for 2001, celebrates his birthday at the Frankfort tournament. Fellow club members made sure everyone around took due notice of Doug's advancing age!

March brought us the fun and camaraderie of the Wild Game Dinner itself – and let me say I expect an even more successful edition of this popular evening in 2002! We also spent a lot of time, both individually and as an organization, planning and preparing for the upcoming Boat Trolling Tournament season. Seeing all the new gear and tackle at the shows, and talking strategy for the new season with our fishing buddies helped get us through those last days and weeks of winter.

Thankfully, there were still fishing opportunities to enjoy, and our "River Rats" contingent kept busy working the rivers with fishing rods in our hands and snowflakes in our teeth. Incidentally, that's the easiest way you can tell a happy Steelheader in cold weather!

April came in, and the adrenaline level was running high – the arrival of spring has that effect on most anglers, especially those who have waited all winter to start fishing again.

Our club made a great showing at the River Crab Salmon Stakes charity tournament in late April, doing our part to help raise a lot of money for the various worthy causes supported by the Chuck Muer Foundation. We came up a little short in the Fishing Club portion of the tourney, but we'll be coming back strong in 2002, and I'm looking for a win for our club next time out in this one!

Then it was May and off to St. Joe/Benton Harbor for our first regular club tournament. Decent would be the right word to describe both the boat turnout and the fishing action there. Just a couple of weeks later, our tourney fleet was back in west Michigan at Grand Haven for a two-day event. The number of boats competing was up, and the catch was WAY UP!

That established a trend that carried over to the next tournament, at the beginning of June at Port Austin, with a big turnout of boats and LOTS OF LAKERS! A great fishing day for our club. Then came mid-June and a club event that for me is one of the real highlight events of the entire year, the Special People Outing on Lake Erie. Taking our Special Friends from the Monroe area for a day of Walleye fishing is truly inspirational for us Steelheaders, and since, for most of our guests, it's their only chance to go fishing, I'm sure it's a big day for them.

The end of June found us at Harrisville for our annual Ladies Day tournament, and yep, once again the ladies showed us how it's done. Enough said . . . !

Wow, then it was July already and time for our research trip to Erieau, Ontario, another fun fishing outing with the guys. Our tourney schedule took a new twist as we trekked over to Frankfort in July for our next club tournament, with pretty good results. We brought a nice assortment of Kings, Steelhead, and Lakers to the scale there, and it was a nice change of pace to fish this port earlier than we usually do.

August brought our fleet to two of our long-standing favorite ports, first Ludington and then Manistee late in the month, seeking those BIG King Salmon we all love. We had a nice showing of boats for both events, and landed a respectable number of good-sized fish for our trouble. We finished up the Boat Trolling season right after Labor Day on September 8, with a smallish turnout of boats bringing a smallish catch of mainly Kings to the last weigh-in of the season. Little did we know what lay in store for us all just 3 days later.

The rest of September and October took on a different feeling for us after the attacks of September 11. We still pursued our river fishing, but things were definitely different. We attempted a couple of Pier/Surf tournament, but Mother Nature helped such those activities. We still had our nice, annual Fish-Off tournament with the Saginaw/Bay City Steelheaders on the Manistee River, but that was about it for fishing for the year.

Overall, we enjoyed a good year, with a string of enjoyable monthly meetings featuring excellent speakers along with our great fishing season. We had a fun Christmas Party/Meeting to close out 2001, with lots of very worthy recipients receiving the various annual awards earned during the year. All in all, I think it's fair to say it was a pretty good year for Detroit Area Steelheaders.

As I look back at the wide variety of activities we pursued with gusto in 2001, and as I think about the host of great friends I have in the club, I have to say I'm pretty lucky. As president, I benefited from an especially dedicated Board of Directors filled with good people. And we all benefited from an active membership working to make our club the greatest group of people gathered together with a single purpose: to enhance and promote our fishery and our sport. Thanks to you all!

Now, "LET'S GO FISHING!!"

—**Doug Karakas,** *President (2001)*

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- **Tom Irwin**–Detroit River Walleyes
- **Don Miller**–Pro Trolling Techniques for Muskies
- **Mike Gnatkowski**–River Steelhead; Plugs, Spinners & Spawn
- **Dan Donarski**–Fishing The U.P.; Fly Fishing the Salt Flats
- **Tom Huggler**–Family Fishing in Michigan
- **Greg Mangus**–Bass Tactics
- **Randy Ramsey**–Finesse Rigs for Bass
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SHOW HOURS:
Wednesday, Jan. 30 — 3 pm - 9:30 pm
Thursday, Jan. 31 — 3 pm - 9:30 pm
Friday, Feb 1 — 3 pm - 9:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 2 — 10 am - 9:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 3 — 10 am - 5 pm

ADMISSION:
Adult $7.50
6-14 $3.50
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Detroit Area Steelheaders set the pace for Salmon fishing!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders Inc., which will celebrate its twenty-eighth anniversary in 2002, traces its origins back to 1974, when the M.S.S.F.A. Board of Directors encouraged two of its members, John Makela and Tom Schneider, to start a chapter in the Detroit area. Joined by two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, the resulting committee of four completed the formation of the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September, 1974.

The first organizing meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter, M.S.S.F.A. (our club's original name) was held on October 16, 1974. Forty-one fishermen attended that first meeting, discussing elections, finances, committees, by-laws and, naturally, fishing. The first Annual Meeting was held on December 4, 1974, our official founding date. By the end of that first meeting, membership exceeded 100, 14 directors had been elected, and we were well on our way!

Early in 1990, we dissolved our affiliation with the M.S.S.F.A. to better pursue our goals of promoting, preserving and improving Steelhead and Salmon fishing in our state. We are now known as the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc., one of the largest independent fishing clubs in Michigan, and, we believe, *THE BEST!*

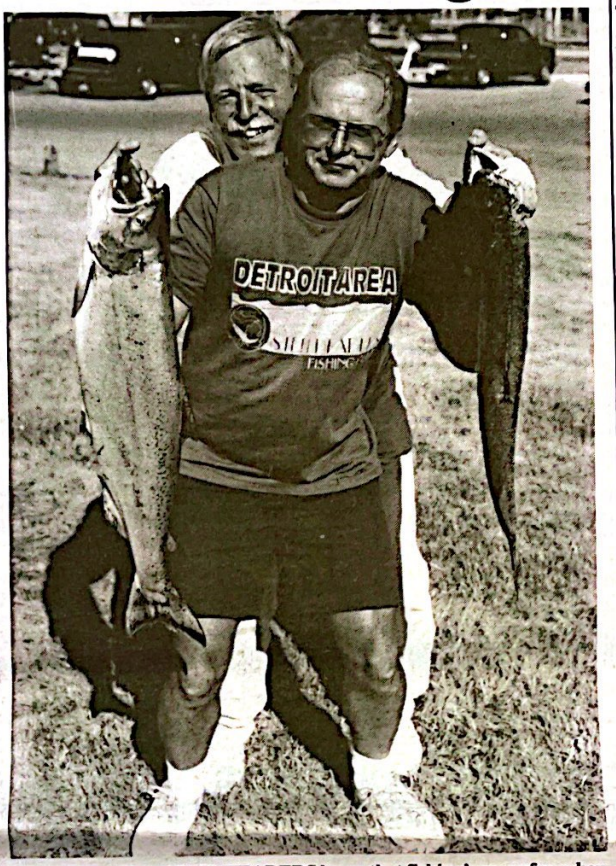
Formed as part of the mid-1970's Salmon and Steelhead fishing boom in Michigan, the organization continues its existence by working in many ways to promote and protect Great Lakes sport fishing. Community involvement has always been an important aspect of our club activities. Over the years, we've been involved in such activities as:

- Taking handicapped children on fishing trips (our annual Special People outings).
- Raising money for fisheries research at Michigan State University (including donating cash and equipment such as fish shockers, etc.).
- Donating money for fish cleaning stations, artificial fishing reef construction, etc.
- Contributing toward legal fees and expenses involved in the negotiating of Indian fishing rights and gill netting.
- Helping to raise money for mental health and child abuse prevention charities through consistent heavy participation in the annual River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament.
- Participating in various conservation projects.

As part of our club activities, we stage an extensive schedule of boat trolling, river and surf fishing tournaments, with the emphasis on sharing fishing knowledge, camaraderie and good times. We always include a Ladies Day boat trolling event for great family fun, and we offer a member hot line (the CREWS Hot Line) to match up boat skippers with would-be crew members in the club, so all who would like to can have the opportunity to share in the fishing fun with other club members.

Our monthly *Fishin' Tales* club newsletter is widely recognized as one of the finest in the state, and there are monthly meetings with great speakers, programs, and other activities. Meetings are usually held the last Tuesday each month.

With a current club membership of more than 200, we believe that we offer prospective members the best package of benefits available in a Salmon and Steelhead fishing organization. Come and join us in 2002, and *GET IN ON ALL THE FUN!!*



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS know that fishing's more fun when you catch fish, and THEY KNOW HOW TO CATCH 'EM!

FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC. 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, other waters, and land.

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Photographer ..... **KENKUHAR**
Advertising ..... **BOB MITCHELL**

• • •

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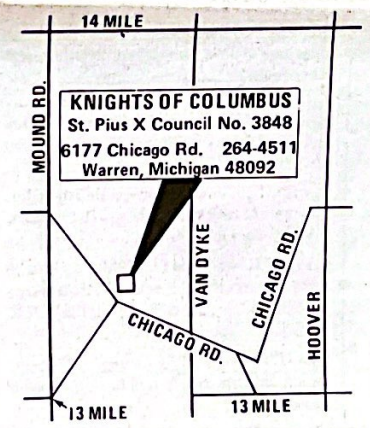
Complete committee assignments for the coming year will be published in the next issue of **FISHIN' TALES.**

Submit all materials for publication to:
BOB MITCHELL, *Editor*
6466 Parkview
Troy, Michigan 48098

Here's how to get to DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS Monthly Membership Meetings



COMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren

JANUARY 29, 2002 • FEBRUARY 26, 2002 • MARCH 26, 2002

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

PONTIAC BOAT & FISHING SHOW (Pontiac Silverdome) **Jan. 30-Feb. 3**

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING (Cabela's, U.S.-23 @ M-50, Dundee) **February 9**

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE (St. Pius X K. of C. Hall, Warren) **February 16**

GREATER DETROIT SPORTFISHING AND TRAVEL SHOW (Palace of Auburn Hills) **February 21-24**

M.U.C.C. OUTDOORAMA (Novi Expo Center) **Feb. 22-March 3**

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS SPORTSMAN'S DINNER (Salt River Golf Club, New Baltimore) **March 9**

STEELHEADERS SWAP MEET * **March 26**

* (Held in conjunction with March Membership Meeting at K. of C. Hall, Warren)

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENTS & OUTINGS

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 27	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)	Don Redmond, (586) 469-8344
May 4	ST. JOSEPH	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
May 18-19	GRAND HAVEN (Two-Day)	Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159
June 1-2	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Joe Von Grabe, (586) 293-7688
June 15	SPECIAL PEOPLE (Outing, Lake Erie)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
June 29	HARBOR BEACH	Mike Vigus, (248) 969-8530
July 13	ERIEAU, ONTARIO (Outing)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
July 27	LUDINGTON (Ladies Day)	Dave Even, (734) 981-2236
August 10	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034
August 24	MANISTEE	Ken Kuhar, (586) 598-8691
Sept. 7	FRANKFORT	Bob Jones, (248) 486-5089

Membership Application

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Get the 'Net . . . again!

For the last few years now, I've been writing about how helpful the computer and access to the Internet is for those of us who love hunting, fishing and the outdoors in general, and this year is no different.

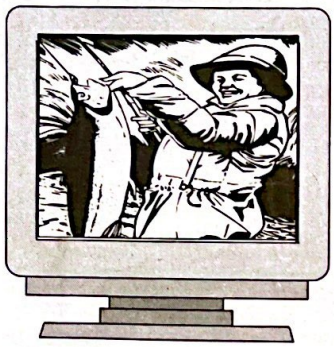
The Detroit Area Steelheaders have had a presence on the Internet for approximately five years now. Personally, I pushed our Board of Directors to create a web site just after joining the staff of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (GLFSC) as Webmaster a few years back.

Having taken courses in computer science in the mid-1980's, I became interested in writing HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) code soon after I acquired my first home computer. HTML code is the computer language that basically makes up what you see when you view a web page. I followed the learning method my father used when he wanted to know how something worked: I went out and bought books on the subject and set out to teach myself. When the opportunity presented itself to put my new-found knowledge to work with the GLFSC, I didn't hesitate. I soon found out that, as much as I thought I knew about being a Webmaster, what I didn't know overshadowed my abilities to do the job.

Ironically, I used the computer and the Internet to return to Macomb Community College without ever having to set foot on campus. The college offered on-line courses in writing HTML and other supporting courses, and it wasn't long before I had the GLFSC web site running nearly as well as the previous Webmaster had done. We were off and running with new ideas for the site, many of which are still in use there today, even though my association with the GLFSC ended about two years ago.

After leaving the GLFSC, I suggested to our Board that we move our web site to our own hosting service so that we would have the ability to make changes and keep the information on our site updated as needed. Today, our web site at www.detroitsteelheaders.org is constantly being updated and contains information about almost every aspect of the club.

Our main page opens with a graphic that somewhat conveys what our club is all about. All the necessary information about our club is located on the main page. Our schedule of events and tournaments is also on the page, as are announcements about upcoming meetings and club functions. We've received many compliments on our web site, and I personally thank those who have done so. It's a work in progress, with some great new ideas on the drawing board for the future to make the site even better.



From the main page you can branch off to our bulletin/message board, links pages, photo gallery, and other pages about club activities.

If you're a new user to the 'net – the Internet, that is – you're probably in a daze after finding out that there are literally MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of fishing, hunting and outdoor-related web pages. And if you're like a lot of us who have been on line for a while, you're now spending a lot of time sorting through all that neat stuff you've been finding on the Internet. Here's a clue: if the wife or kids walk into the room and you have to think for a moment before you remember their names, then it's time to turn the darn computer off! But, mind you, only for a while . . . I mean, after all, there's so much to see, so much to learn.

If you've paid much attention lately, you know that the news media are sometimes giving the Internet a bad rap, and I don't mean by Puff Daddy, either. Sure, you can find anything you're looking for out there. But those of us who love to hunt and fish haven't got time or desire to waste on those 'other' types of web sites. Sure, there's a lot of material on the Internet that most people would find offensive. I suppose many people could say it's a matter of free speech. You be your own judge!

There's also an unbelievable amount of good information out there, as well. Your computer is a great tool for helping to educate yourself. And believe me, when it comes to fishing, there is truly a wealth of useful information out on the 'Information Super Highway'. So let's get started, shall we?

Where do you start? One way is to use search engines. If you know about search engines and how to use them, let me recommend something I found and use extensively as a Webmaster. What's a Webmaster, you ask? Very simply put, a Webmaster is someone whose job it is to design, maintain and promote those web sites you view on the Internet.

I use a software program called *Copernic*, which searches multiple search engines simultaneously, sites such as AOL, Yahoo, Excite, and HotBot, to name a few. You can download the free version of *Copernic 2002* from the web site located at: http://www.copernic.com.

With *Copernic* on your computer, it's just a matter of typing in a few search words, such as "fishing Lake Michigan" and hitting go. And by the way, since most search engines are case-sensitive, I recommend using all lower case letters for your search. That will produce better results.

The main problem with search engines is that they have become somewhat unreliable in what results they return. I recently typed in the "fishing Lake Michigan" phrase and got a large number of links to sites that had nothing to do with fishing or Lake Michigan. Many webmasters have found ways to get their pages to come up in search results that have no relevance to the subject being searched for. It's sad, but for every five pages listed when I type in "fishing," one return is a site I wouldn't want my children or grandchildren to see.

What to do now? Try the directories on those same sites I mentioned earlier. Directories are more specific to finding what you're looking for. A Webmaster or Internet user has to submit the specific page to the directory. If the page has no content related to the outdoors, chances are it won't make it in to the "recreation-sports-outdoors" directory. Most directory services actually screen pages before accepting them for publication. Personally, I think it won't be too long before directories all but replace search engines.

What can having access to the Internet do for your hunting and fishing success? Let me offer a few examples. Last spring, Lake Michigan trollers were having great success using a spoon with the nickname "greasy chicken wing." Many people had no idea whatsoever of what the heck a "greasy chicken wing" might be! I did a little detective work with the computer, and soon I had a pretty good idea of what the "wing's" color pattern was by cross-referencing what I had found on the web sites of the Silver Streak, Stinger and other spoon manufacturers and bait shops. Mystery solved!!

The next big thing we heard about at the docks, over the marine radios, and on the Internet message boards was the "hoochie mamas." After a few hours on the computer, combined with a pretty good magazine article on the subject, I had a good idea of how and when to run the "hoochie mama" rigs. And let me tell you, it paid off more than once last season.

I can imagine that some of you are wondering what the heck a "hoochie mama" is. It turns out that's the nickname of a rig using a certain manufacturer's flasher rig combined with a live bait rig that spins when it's trolled. It's a variation on the dodger/squid combinations that have been used on the Great Lakes for years now, and it attracts BIG Trout and Salmon.

So you can now see that the computer and the Internet can truly be another integral part of your gear, just the same as your fish finder, GPS and marine radio. With a little pre-trip web surfing, you can get fishing reports and weather information, buy your hunting or fishing licenses on line, book a fishing charter and hotel or motel rooms, obtain maps and directions to your destination, reserve campsites in the state parks and dock space at some of the marinas, plus much more. After your trip is over, you can even show off your prize catch on a web site, or e-mail it to all your friends. See, computers and the Internet aren't all bad!

Now that you're ready to launch into cyberspace, you need a destination, right? And since you are reading this in the Detroit Area Steelheaders 2002 ***Fishin' Tales Annual,*** how about starting with the D.A.S. home page? Our web site can be found at:

http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org/index.html

Enjoy your time on the World Wide Web!

– Ed Wilczek, "Steelie Ed"

Detroit Area Steelheaders giving tops $17,000!

During the first 27 years of its existence, our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, has contributed to numerous worthwhile causes which we believe serve our stated organizational goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes Salmon and Trout fishing.

The following list of donations made by our club through the years may overlook some, but the overall impact is that Detroit Area Steelheaders really give!

- **August 1977 – Aquascope Depthfinder.** Donated to the Michigan D.N.R. Fisheries, Southeast Michigan.
- **1977 – Reworking fish ladder on Huron River at Flat Rock.** Detroit Area Steelheaders paid the costs for the D.N.R. Fisheries, Southeast Michigan.

  NOTE: From 1978 through 1984, the club had no funds left to donate after operations.
- **June 1985 – $500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **1985 – $250 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **October 1985 – $500 Grant.** To Sanilac Steelheaders for Lexington Fish Cleaning Station.
- **April 1986 – $250 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **July 1987 – $200 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **1987 – Backpack Fish Shocker.** Donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **September 1987 – $800 Grant.** Proceeds from Detroit Area Steelheader cookbook donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **October 1988 – $600 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **September 1989 – $500 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **September 1990 – $1,000 Grant.** To Blue Water Sport Fishing Association for reef construction.
- **September 1990 – Two Riviera Downriggers.** Donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **December 1990 – $155 Grant.** To Northeast Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- **March 1991 – $100 Grant.** To Northeast Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- **February 1992 – $500 Grant.** To the Benzie County Fish Hatchery.
- **April 1992 – $500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **May 1993 – $250 Grant.** To the Benzie County Fish Hatchery.
- **June 1993 – $500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **March 1994 – $400 Grant.** To Michigan State University Betsie River Project.
- **March 1995 – $100 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **July 1995 – $250 Grant.** To the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association for Sarnia Hatchery.
- **September 1995 – $500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **November 1995 – $500 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **September 1996 – $100 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **October 1996 – $250 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **April 1997 – $300 Grant.** To the Manistee County Sportfishing Association for the Orsini Hatchery.
- **December 1997 – $200 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association for their net pen project.
- **December 1997 – $250 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **July 1998 – $250 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association for their net pen project.
- **August 1998 – $200 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **December 1999 – $3000 Grant.** To city of Port Sanilac for new fish cleaning station.
- **December 2000 – $300 Grant.** To Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for 2001 Annual Meeting.
- **March 2001 – $100 Grant.** To the Hammond Bay Anglers Association supporting efforts with the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition and the netting agreement.
- **July 2001 – $100 Grant.** For operating expenses of Port Austin fish cleaning station.
- **September 2001 – $250 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association to help fund costs of net pen operations.
- **September 2001 – $250 Grant.** To the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition to help defray expenses of the fishing agreement negotiations.

Detroit Area Steelheaders donations and grants to date total MORE THAN $17,000!! We can all feel good about being Detroit Area Steelheaders because we are meeting our stated purpose to help the fishery!

— Steve Hamilton

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Where are the fish? An expert reveals his secrets!

There's an old saying that "90% of the fish are in 10% of the water." There is also another saying: "The most important element in catching fish is that you have to be over the fish." Easy enough. But, where are the fish? How do I find them? That is the $64,000 question!

There are a number of aspects that have to be considered when you are trying to find the fish. First is the season. In general, Salmon tend to be in the southern ends of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the spring, having migrated there over the winter. Through the summer, they move offshore and to the north. Eventually they reach their spawning rivers.

About 12 or 13 years ago, Salmon just disappeared as far as fishermen were concerned. Everyone switched over to Lakers and awaited the return of the Salmon in late July. At that time we concentrated our fishing near shore.

The tough fishing of prior years caused fishermen to try far off shore, initially to target Steelhead along thermal bars. What we found is that Salmon are also in deep water in midsummer, and it's possible to catch them there, too.

In late July, the Salmon start to mature and the urge to spawn starts to take priority over the feeding urge. However, the Salmon don't just show up at river mouths and run the rivers. They first start to school in deep water off the mouths of the rivers. This phenomenon occurs because the fish were originally from the ocean. If a Salmon were to immediately move from the salt water of the ocean into the fresh water of a river flowing into the sea, it would die from osmosis. Therefore, Salmon school in the mixture of salt and fresh water found at river mouths, slowly getting used to the fresh water.

As they acclimatize to the fresh water, Salmon undergo a transformation, forming a protective mucous covering on their bodies.

AUTHOR BOB MITCHELL proudly hefts a 29-pound money tournament winner taken at Rogers City. Joining Bob in the post-tourney celebration are crew members (l.-r.) Dick Shirk, Dave Even, Ray Even and George Richey.

Salmon often turn dark when they form this protective coating. Only after the transformation is complete do the Salmon enter and run up the rivers to spawn. When found in the Great Lakes, Salmon do the same thing. No one told them they weren't in salt water!

Temperature is also a key factor in finding the Salmon. In the spring, it is usually the warmest water that attracts bait and holds the fish. As the lakes warm up from the mid-30's to the 40's, there are pockets of water to be found that are warmer than the surrounding water. These may be near shore, at the mouth of a river or creek, or at the discharge of a power plant. Regardless of where they're found, these warm water pockets hold bait fish, and Salmon anxious to feed on them.

As the waters warm in early, the fish move north and offshore. Great places to look for fast action are offshore thermal bars where the surface water changes temperature by a couple of degrees as you troll out. The best places are where you find a narrow band of 54° F water on the surface. The surrounding water might be 57° F on one side and 45° F on the other. Often this band will exhibit a "scum line" that makes finding it easier. In early summer, this thermal bar may be five to 30 miles off shore. The fishing there can be great and is usually quite shallow, the upper 25 feet or so. Steelhead are frequently present in great numbers, along with other species. Eventually, the warm, 54° F water from one side of Lake Michigan meets warm water from the other side of the lake and the bar disappears.

Once the salmon return to shallower water (less than 200' deep, and usually in late July), temperature can still play an active role in finding the fish. Again, 54° F is the key. That's the temperature at which water undergoes physical changes in density. This causes it to layer, with colder water below, warmer above, and a rapid change in temperature over a band of water from 5'-20' thick. Find this band with a temperature probe and you have a major key in locating bait and fish. Kings may be above or below the band, but the odds are that they, and the bait fish they feed on, will be near it.

One rule of thumb is to find the depth of water that is 54° F, add 15 feet to the depth and start fishing there. For example, if the 54° F thermocline is at 60 feet, start trolling in 75 feet of water. It's amazing how often that works.

For lake trout, the rule is to find where 48° F water intersects with the bottom and start there, fishing on the bottom. These tips are not guarantees by any means, just starting points.

Salmon are eating machines. If you want to find weighty people, go to a buffet. If you want to find weighty Kings, go to their 'snack bar': bait fish schools. You'll sometimes find schools of bait fish where there are no Salmon. You'll almost never find Salmon where there are no bait fish. If you graph bait fish, it's worth trolling the area. If the buffet is bare, people leave. So do Salmon when their 'buffet' is empty.

As we come to know more about Salmon, it is becoming more and more apparent that they relate to structure on the bottom, and also to water currents. Think about the great Salmon ports on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and you will notice a common thread: structure. The Point at Ludington, the Herring Hole at Frankfort, the area around the Nordmar wreck off Rockport, the Grindstone Reef. All these areas have tremendous structure, and they consistently hold fish because of their structure. Structure is the key to finding Salmon.

Another kind of structure, or break, is the current. Currents are still one of the mysteries of Salmon fishing. We do know that they are important in determining where Salmon are, but there is much to learn. At this point, I can only say that if you find a deep current, check it out. The first clue to a current will probably come from the angle of your downrigger cables. If the angle seems steeper than normal, you are probably fishing against an underwater current. Conversely, if they seem almost straight down, you are probably fishing in the same direction as an underwater current.

Be careful how you fish current. Remember, if you are fishing in the same direction as a deep current, you need to troll faster to ensure that your baits are running at optimum speed in the current, rather than 'hanging dead'. If you fish against it, slow down. The angle of your cables will provide a clue to speed and current.

Of course, there are other ways to find fish, too. There is the "bait shop report" method. Some are good, some aren't. One of the best sources of information is from guys fishing for a living, the charters. They generally fish every day and follow the schools. Their information, or presence, is a positive sign. Just be courteous and stay out of their way. You are fishing the fish they led you to, not "your" fish. Also, be sure to stay wide of them, as they generally have less ability to maneuver, and often run long (300'-500') lead core lines. Last time I looked, there was plenty of lake out there for us all.

Lastly, the radio can be a good source of information. Don't become a 'radio runner', picking up your lines and running every time someone catches a fish. Often you will get there after the action stops anyway. But if you are not catching fish and several other boats are reporting good action not far away, don't keep doing what you're doing. Go there!

There is no surefire way to catch fish all the time. But get "over the fish" and follow some of these tips. Your odds will improve in finding the 10% of the lake where the 90% of the fish are feeding. Good fishing!

— **Bob Mitchell**, "Kemo

USEFUL NEWS FOR DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

THIRD ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S DINNER SET FOR MARCH 9

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will be hosting our third annual Steelheader Sportsmen's Dinner on Saturday, March 9, 2002. Responses from those who attended last year's Dinner were very positive, especially regarding the great food! This year we will return to the Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center, conveniently located at 33633 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore (2.4 miles east of I-94, Exit #243). The hall is finely decorated, with large windows providing a wonderful view of the golf course, and an excellent sound system.

This will be a traditional sportsmen's dinner, featuring a game menu, an impressive display of taxidermy, and raffles.

This year's dinner will be prepared by the same highly praised caterer as last year. The menu will include at least five wild game entreés such as pheasant, caribou and buffalo, etc., along with pop and beer.

This year's raffles will offer LOTS of Great Lakes fishing tackle, numerous popular guns, and other great items. We expect to have upwards of 90 raffle prizes. This event will be one of our major fund-raisers for 2002, perhaps our biggest and best!

In 2001, we had more than 350 people in attendance, and the room was REALLY full. This year, we have reduced the number of tables to provide more space for everyone, so there will only be room for about 320-330. We expect to sell out all available seats before the end of February, so DO NOT BE LEFT OUT!

Tickets are only $35 per person, including dinner with pop and beer, so secure your place by getting your tickets NOW! Bring your friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Tables of ten may be reserved, and there will be smoking and non-smoking areas available.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., with the meal to begin promptly at 6:00 p.m., and the sportsmen's raffles to follow. For tickets or more information, contact me, Don Redmond, or any Director.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal and some great camaraderie with fellow lovers of the great outdoors. GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!

– **Steve Hamilton, Dinner** Chairman
(313) 881-3871

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BOARD SEEKS STAFFING HELP FOR 2002 SPORT SHOWS

You may find it hard to believe, but the 2002 outdoor show season is about to hit in the Detroit area. This year, there are three outdoor shows where the Detroit Area Steelheaders will have our booth on display.

First up is the Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport and Fishing Show from January 30-February 3, followed by the Greater Detroit Sportfishing Expo at the Palace of Auburn Hills from February 21- February 24. We'll finish up at the Michigan United Conservation Club's Outdoorama at the Novi Expo Center from February 22 -March 3.

As in years past, we are looking for volunteers to help man our booth at the shows. Sign-up sheets will be available at the January membership meeting. Working the club booth at the shows is a great way to meet people who share the same interests as you, namely anything having to do with fishing, and especially Trout and Salmon fishing. And it almost goes without saying that it provides an opportunity for you to see everything on display at these three great shows, and to talk to the vendors, charter operators, etc., and to the many old friends the club has made over the years.

Please see me at the meeting if you are interested in signing up to work at the shows, or call me. This year, every member who signs up to work our booth at the shows will receive a small token of appreciation for their efforts, a new Detroit Area Steelheaders towel! There's a limit of one towel per person – sorry, no additional towels for signing up for multiple shows, or for working multiple shifts. You can pick yours up at the booth when you report for your shift.

For additional show information, use the links found on our web site at:

www.detroitsteelheaders.org/

Thanks for your help.

– **Mark Bevans**, (586) 779-3189

• • •

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL "COOLER OF CHEER" RAFFLE IS HISTORY

Our annual Christmas meeting and party went very well, as usual, and the 2001 version of our "Cooler of Cheer" raffle was another great one.

John Sullivan of Warren sold the most raffle tickets, $300 worth, and won an awesome Standard Horizon hand-held radio for his efforts. The big winner claiming the highly prized 2001 Cooler of Cheer turned out to be none other than our own Mike Lehto, and I have it on good authority that Mike will truly enjoy his prize. Congrats to both winners, and to everyone who won prizes at the meeting. As you know, proceeds from this raffle help fund various club activities, so thank you to all who supported one of our big club fund-raisers.

Always Fishing!!

– **Robert Golaszewski**, "Lucky Falcon"

P.S.: Let's go all out to win this year's River Crab tourney – I hope to see you all there!!

The DEADLINE for the FEBRUARY ISSUE of *FISHIN' TALES* is FEBRUARY 4, 2002

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The 'ins and outs' of the directional Dipsy Diver®

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, you will tilt the planing surface, causing the diver to move to either the port side or starboard side when trolled. Leaving the weight at the center will cause the diver to track straight behind your boat.

DIVERS vs. LEAD

Lead weights are widely used to take a lure deep, but when compared with a diver (especially a multi-directional one) they leave much to be desired.

Unlike lead, a diver loses its resistance in the water when tripped, allowing easy retrieval of your gear. This loss of pressure, or drag, also provides extra sport and enjoyment when fighting a fish, since there will be virtually no resistance caused by the terminal gear.

Perhaps even more important, because the diver loses pressure against the water when tripped, fish are prevented from gaining leverage, thus making it harder for them to throw your hook. Prior to divers, the only way an angler could accomplish this loss of water pressure was to use a break-away lead, a very expensive and cumbersome way to fish.

Another big advantage of divers over lead weights to easily get a lure down to a predetermined depth is that they act as fish attractors because of their color and shape . . . another big plus when trolling or exploring unknown waters or when fish are scattered and a little extra something is needed to attract them.

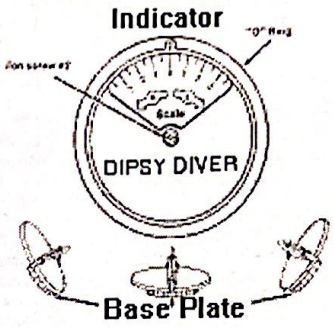
Directional Dipsy Divers® are available in the following colors and finishes: Fire, Chartreuse, Kelly Green, Clear (stealth!), Glo, Black/Purple Prism-Lite®, Silver, Metallic Gold, Metallic Blue, Metallic Pink, Metallic Purple, Metallic Green, Metallic Red, and Metallic Copper.

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 divers for the price of one.

Here are the details of how the directional Dipsy Diver® works. After you tie your line to the barrel swivel at the front end of the diver, and lock 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 at a pre-determined angle.



This multi-directional feature is possible because the base plate contains a moulded-in weight that can be shifted by 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:

• It doubles your trolling area, and lures are thus exposed to fish which might not have otherwise seen them.

• More lures can be trolled, and sharp turns made, without the fear of tangling lines.

• Downrigger fishermen, in particular, will be able to 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.

• It can be used for trolling just beneath the surface, and can be tripped easily from the boat.

Size "0" and "1" Dipsys® come with a special removable "O-Ring" which, when in position, creates extra planing surface and delivers up to twenty percent 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 observed angle of your line from boat to water DOES NOT indicate the position underwater of the Dipsy Diver®, because of the phenomenon known as 'line bellying'. You can write or call Luhr Jensen for a table for calculating true side angle and depth location of a trolled directional Dipsy Diver®.

RIGGING

Rig your Dipsy® for fishing by allowing at least four to six feet of leader between the diver and lure, or, when using a dodger, have at least 48 inches of leader between it and the diver. Adjust the #1 tension screw to hold the release pin in place while trolling, but be careful not to over-tighten it. Because this trip mechanism is adjustable, you will be able to set it just right for the specific gear you're using. A slight tug on the line, or astrike by a fish should cause the pin to release.

The base plate is held in position by the #2 tension screw, 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 through 2.

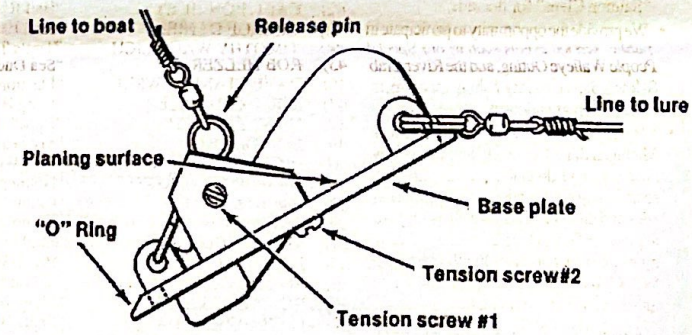
TROLLING TIPS

Trolling is a most efficient fishing method, particularly on big or unknown water, 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 thus draw strikes from fish that you otherwise would not have been able to reach.

Because the diver can be set to run at predetermined depths, you also have the ability to cover not only a wide section of water, but also several different layers of depth. 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" patterns between two points will impart both changes of speed and depth to the Dipsy® and its trailing lure . . . just the kind of erratic actions that spell "Easy Meal" to nearby fish.

From Luhr Jensen Tech Reports at luhr-jensen.com



River Crab tournament kicks off season

The 24th annual Chuck Muer Salmon Stakes fishing tournament will commence at sun-up Saturday, April 27. Since its inception, this tournament has evolved into Michigan's longest-running fishing tournament.

The tourney, co-ordinated by the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association, last year raised over $100,000 for charitable causes, bringing the total amount raised over the past 24 years to more than $1,500,000!

The proceeds from this event help support the Blue Water Mental Health Clinic, whose mission is to provide services for children and adults. The Clinic has experienced a significant decrease in government funding in recent years, a fact which underscores the importance of the Salmon Stakes tournament as a major fund raiser for a great cause!

Returning for her third year of serving as the Honorary Chairperson is news anchor Diana Lewis of WXYZ-TV, Channel 7 in Detroit. Also returning is one of the most welcome and exciting 'participants' of this tournament, "Slippery Charlie." During the week preceding the tourney, a Salmon will be caught, tagged and released into Lake Huron. If a participating angler catches ol' "Slippery Charlie" on April 27 during the tournament, he will "net" a cool $1,000.00 in prize money for his lucky catch.

Other prize money to be awarded to registered anglers includes $500.00 for the largest King Salmon, Steelhead, Brown Trout, and Coho Salmon.

There is also a $5,000.00 cash prize to be awarded to the registered fishing club with the heaviest total weight of eligible fish weighed in at the tournament's conclusion. Needless to say, we want to see *EVERY* member of our club and every club boat possible registered and entered in this event. We are expecting a titanic battle with the Blue Water gang for top honors, so come on out and DO YOUR PART!

If you need more incentive than helping uphold the honor of your club (and the five grand!), $500.00 will also be awarded to the skipper of the registered fishing boat weighing in the heaviest catch. A $10 raffle ticket for each person fishing aboard the boat qualifies the captain to register his boat into the tournament. Only the skipper need belong to a club in order for a boat to participate in the club portion of the competition.

Raffle prizes for 2002 are as follows:

GRAND PRIZE – A 7-day cruise for two throughout Alaska, including airfare and $300.00 in spending money.

FIRST PRIZE – A 3-day/2-night getaway for a family of four to Toronto, including $300.00 in spending money.

SECOND PRIZE – Dinner for six at a Chuck Muer restaurant, including limousine transportation for the evening.

THIRD PRIZE – $500.00 worth of Chuck Muer Gift Certificates.

FOURTH PRIZE – Four tickets to a Detroit Pistons basketball game, including participation of on-court ball boy/girl activities, autographs, and more!

FIFTH PRIZE – Four tickets to a Detroit Tigers baseball game, including Tigers memorabilia.

In fact, there are no "losing" raffle tickets, because, after tournament day, all raffle tickets are redeemable for $10.00 off dinner for two at any Chuck Muer restaurant.

There will be only 300 tickets available for the outstanding buffet dinner held the day of the tournament at the River Crab Restaurant. These dinner tickets will be available at $14.00 each beginning February 16, and will not last long, given the size and popularity of this terrific tournament!

Jeff Parker is our Tournament Chairman for the River Crab, and he is looking for members who can join his committee and help get our Detroit Area Steelheader participation organized, and maximized! You can reach Jeff at (810) 984-5743.

Raffle tickets, registration forms, and buffet dinner tickets will be available on February 16. Be sure to mark your calendars for April 27 – it's our first tourney of the season, and one of the major tournaments of the entire year. See you there!!

TOMORROW'S DREAM
Sportfishing Charters
• Fishing Lake Michigan – Grand Haven •
"We go where the fish are!"
Captain Mark Stosiak
(586) 777-9833 (810) 335-0599

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New membership drive to begin this month

The Detroit Area Steelheaders have announced a new membership drive, beginning in January, with an incentive package for any new member who signs up. If your membership expired prior to December, 2000, or if you are a brand new member signing up for the first time, you'll receive a gift pack valued at approximately $22, including:

- Two Silver Streak spoons
- A Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing towel
- Detroit Area Steelheaders decals for your boat and truck
- Free Michigan maps and brochures

This gift pack is yours with a paid one-year membership (priced at $25), or a paid lifetime membership (priced at $150).

Not only is this incentive a great reason for you to join the Detroit Area Steelheaders, but it's also great for your entire family, as memberships are a family memberships.

Here are some other good reasons why fishermen from all over the state of Michigan are joining the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

- The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. serves you as a means of being heard on important issues affecting our fisheries.
- You will receive 12 monthly issues of our ***Fishin' Tales*** newsletter, among the finest published anywhere.
- We sponsor organized events year-round throughout Michigan, including boat, river, and ice fishing tournaments.
- We offer social events such as the Valentine's Dinner Dance and our annual Sportsmen's Wild Game Dinner, as well as a special Christmas meeting with *"Salmon Claus"* for the kids.
- We provide the opportunity to participate in public service events such as our Special People Walleye Outing, and the River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament to help support various worthy causes.
- We make donations to fisheries research at Michigan State University and other organizations, and donations to various other sport fishing organizations to support hatcheries and other projects, as well as supporting lawyer fees to help protect our fishing rights all over our state. In all, more than $17,000 has been donated since we came into existence as a sport club.
- We are in our 28th year of existence as a sport fishing club.
- We have great guest speakers scheduled for monthly meetings in 2002, including representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, state fisheries biologists, and charter captains who bring us timely information, and share their fishing passions and special areas of expertise. Also, Question-and-Answer periods with the top skippers from our own fishing tournaments around the state are regularly held at the meetings.
- Camaraderie with fellow members at club meetings and the other club functions throughout the year. Our meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 6177 Chicago Road between Van Dyke & Mound Roads, where 13 Mile Road and Chicago Road intersect.

You can fill out the application for membership on Page Three of this Annual and drop it in the mail to our post office box, or better yet, bring it to one of our monthly meetings and join in on the fun of great fishing ahead. We'll also have a get-acquainted display booth at the major fishing shows in the area. We look forward to seeing you at a show, or one of our monthly meetings.

The members of our club are what makes the Detroit Area Steelheaders the club it is, and without YOU, we can't be as great as we could be, and it will be harder to reach our goals.

We hope to see you at our next meeting!

–Tom Moores, *Membership Director*

2001 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

Final Standings – Best 5 of 9

PLACE & SKIPPER	BOAT	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1) MARK STOSIAK	"Tomorrow's Dream II"	50	2	2	1	12	20	75	2	4	11
2) CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	27	4	1	4	75	4	8	3	9	16
3) JOE VON GRABE	"Sloppy Joe"	14	3	6	17	1	3	14	8	10	21
4) MIKE VIGUS	"Crusader"	6	11	5	3	2	12	20	23	75	27
5) DOUG KARAKAS	"Capt'n Hook II"	50	6	75	6	3	13	75	21	6	34
6) STAN BILEK	"Blue Star"	3	12	19	26	13	6	1	20	75	35
6) DAVE EVEN	"Teacher's Pet"	10	75	3	75	75	5	11	6	75	35
8) DON REDMOND	"Trena Dawn"	75	75	75	5	75	17	3	13	1	39
9) BOB BUERO	"Mickey Mouse Club"	9	10	75	15	8	50	75	5	8	40
10) BOB JONES	"Bobby's Toy"	8	7	18	23	11	9	10	7	12	41
11) DEAN MEYERS	"Tip-n-Dipsy"	11	1	16	25	4	75	12	75	75	44
12) KEN KUHAR	"Mary K"	32	14	17	9	75	7	15	18	2	47
13) MARK BEVANS	"In-Seine"	50	8	7	24	75	8	13	27	13	49
14) ED HILL	"Dredge"	18	9	10	28	75	19	22	19	5	61
14) DAVE ROEHR	"Loki One"	75	5	13	22	9	75	75	12	75	61
16) RON HARTMAN	"Molly Frair"	31	16	15	27	7	15	18	15	15	67
16) BILL NUTTING	"Just Once"	13	15	21	75	75	21	7	75	11	67
18) RON MASCHKE	"The Brat"	50	75	4	20	75	23	19	24	14	80
19) CHRIS SCHWARK	"Cowabunga"	50	75	9	16	6	14	75	50	75	95
20) MIKE LEHTO	"Capias"	5	75	75	75	75	11	5	10	75	106
21) DICK SHIRK	"Lil' Scratch"	50	75	8	11	75	75	50	75	3	122
22) TY VOIGT	"Tyger"	75	75	75	19	5	75	25	50	75	174
23) DON ANTON	"Happy Bare"	75	75	75	75	75	1	24	4	75	179
24) GREG ZACCARDELLI	"Nauti-Buoy"	50	75	75	75	75	2	75	22	50	199
25) JIMMY HARDRICK	"My Dream"	50	13	75	12	75	75	75	50	75	200
26) RICHARD KITTLE	"Spoda B"	50	75	75	14	75	75	75	75	7	221
27) MARK WILLIAMS	"Destiny"	50	75	75	13	75	75	75	14	75	227
28) WALT POHORILY	"Main Squeeze"	50	75	75	75	10	25	75	75	75	235
29) TOM MOORES	"Kare Free"	1	75	75	10	75	75	75	75	75	236
30) BOB KSIONZEK	"Last Dime II"	4	75	75	8	75	75	75	75	75	237
31) BILL DUNK	"Free Bird"	12	75	75	75	75	75	2	75	75	239
32) BLAISE PEWINSKI	"Sea Hag"	75	75	75	18	75	75	75	1	75	244
33) TIM GRASKIEWICZ	"Journey"	75	75	75	75	75	16	6	75	75	247
33) ROB PINSKEY	"Anticipation"	15	75	75	7	75	75	75	75	75	247
35) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	"My Treasure"	24	75	75	2	75	75	75	75	75	251
36) DANNY COLOMBE	"Atlantis"	19	75	14	75	75	75	75	75	75	258
37) DWAYNE WELDER	"S.S. Guppy"	75	75	75	75	75	24	75	11	75	260
38) TED LEWICKI	"Lucky Lew's"	50	75	12	75	75	50	75	75	75	262
39) DANIEL DIMA	"Taz"	75	75	75	75	75	22	75	16	75	263
40) BILL HOFFMAN	"Steelie Too"	75	75	75	75	75	75	16	25	75	266
41) PAUL COLONE	"The Kidd"	28	75	75	75	75	75	75	17	75	270
42) CAPT. RON HUEY	"Half R's"	7	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	282
43) GEORGE DANIELS	"Reel Expression"	50	75	20	75	75	75	75	75	75	295
44) TIMOTHY WAIDELICH	"Tim's Toy"	75	75	75	50	75	75	50	50	75	300
45) ROB HELZER	"Sea Duce"	2	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	302
46) DAVE STANISZEWSKI	"Phantom"	75	75	75	75	75	75	4	75	75	304
47) ROB PRATCSHLER	"Long Haul"	75	75	75	75	75	75	9	75	75	309
47) GARY RUPRICH	"Rupe"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	9	75	309
49) DON DISSETT	"My Way"	75	75	75	75	75	10	75	75	75	310
50) RICK VANDER MEIDEN	"Reel Work"	75	75	11	75	75	75	75	75	75	311
51) GASPER RANDAZZO	"Nothing But Trouble"	16	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	316
52) ED HOREN	"Comus"	17	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	317
52) BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	75	75	75	75	75	75	17	75	75	317
54) MARK BRADLEY	"Markin' Fish"	75	75	75	75	75	18	75	75	75	318
55) JIM FITCH	"Pat-A-Wac"	20	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	320
56) ROD ELNICK	"Silhouette"	75	75	75	21	75	75	75	75	75	321
56) RON KOSCIELSKI	"Flow 'N Sweet"	21	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	321
56) PAUL SCHOENRADE	"Eagle III"	75	75	75	75	75	75	21	75	75	321
59) KEN CIONE	"Trap Shooter"	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	322
60) RICHARD GRIX	"Susan B"	23	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	323
60) LES JUMP	"Alice's Angler"	75	75	75	75	75	75	23	75	75	323
62) DALE LUFF	"One More"	24	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	324
63) DICK JACKSON	"Voyageur"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	26	75	326
63) DAVID ROBINSON	"Whiplash"	26	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	326
65) GREG McCANN	"3-Hour Tour"	29	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	329
66) KEN WIEGAN	*Boat Name Unavailable*	30	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	330
67) JASON ADAMS	*Boat Name Unavailable*	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	350
67) LOU BACSIKIN	"Crews Inn"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) BRUCE BEACH	"Beach Bash"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) RALPH BOLAND	*Boat Name Unavailable*	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) CHARLES FISH	*Boat Name Unavailable*	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) JOEL GARINGER	"Gin Della"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) TOM GEORGE	"Rolling & Trolling"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) RON NIEMASZ	*Boat Name Unavailable*	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) STEVEN SLIVOSKI	*Boat Name Unavailable*	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) MIKE WALRATH	"Fiji"	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) SCOTT ZASLONA	"Steel-N-Time"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
77) HANK BACZYNSKI	"Sinsation"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) TIM BUSCH	"My Side"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) VERN FAHRENKRUG	"Hot Dog"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI	"Lucky Falcon"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) DARWIN GREGG	"Returner"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) STEVE HAMILTON	"Valhalla"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) DENIS HARPER	"Lady's Choice"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) JOHN KRASINSKI	"JFK"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) JEREMY MARANOWSKI	"Fish-N-Machine"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) LYNN MARTIN	"Twin Lynns"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) DAVE SCHATZBERG	"AWOL"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) RYAN SCHMID	"Sewer Rat"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) STEPHEN SPROTT	"Sprott Boat"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) BOB SWEENEY	"Pully Bone"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) LARRY WALTERS	"Hawkeye"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) ED WILCZEK	"Steelie Ed"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375
77) HOWARD YORK	"Golden Oldie"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	375

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Grand Haven D = Port Austin E = Harrisville F = Frankfort G = Ludington H = Manistee J = Rogers City

Scanned with CamScanner

Winter sport shows offer a satisfying combination of old and new

Traditions evolve slowly, over time. It takes years for an event or happening to reach tradition status. Most events fizzle over time, and never come close to reaching that pinnacle of accomplishment of being called a tradition.

One of Michigan's oldest and most beloved traditions is firmly rooted in the outdoors. A gathering of like minds occurs, as tens of thousands of Michiganders who enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, camping and other outdoor sports converge each winter. The destinations, exhibitors and participants vary from show to show and year to year, but the bond is the same. A love of the outdoors brings folks back each winter to the boat, sport and fishing shows!

Michigan's outdoor tradition comes in the form of three outdoor "mega-shows" produced by ShowSpan, Inc. ShowSpan is a family business that provides outdoor sports lovers the traditions they long for. In fact, the 2002 show season marks the 57th year that ShowSpan has been producing outdoor shows!

Among the oldest and most respected shows in the Midwest, ShowSpan shows pride themselves on delivering exhibits that provide the ideal mix of familiar faces and new features and thrills. This year, those who love the outdoors have much to look forward to. In this area, the show season kicks off with the Michigan Boat, Sport & Fishing Show at the Pontiac Silverdome, which is scheduled to run from January 30-February 3. If you miss that one, or just want to go to more than one "mega-show," there is the Sportfishing, Boat & Travel Show at the Lansing Center from March 7-10, and Michigan's largest and oldest outdoor show, the Grand Center Sport, Fishing and Travel show, set for March 14-17.

Familiar faces at the sport show include the many boat dealers, sporting goods retailers and outfitters who display and sell their goods and services right at the show.

Boat displays occupy a major portion of the exhibition space. The state's leading dealers converge at the show, offering a one-stop shopping experience that is unbeatable. Anyone in the market for a new fishing skiff, recreational boat, pontoon, or personal watercraft has at their disposal the largest selections in the state to choose from. There's just no better way to shop for a new boat or personal watercraft.

Sales at the show aren't limited to just big-ticket items, either. The latest fishing tackle, marine accessories, electronics, clothing, hunting goods, and specialty items are also available at the show. In fact, many unique or highly unusual products and services are only available at the show.

This year's show devotes more than one-third of its space to Michigan's largest assemblage of guides, outfitters and lodge owners, who are dedicated to helping outdoorsmen and women plan travel adventures in the great outdoors. The action could be as close by as a familiar Michigan river, or as far away as Russia . . . you choose!

In the "What's New" department, showgoers will be pleased with the advancements a year can make. This year, the big news at the Silverdome, and we do mean BIG, is that the show has expanded to take over the Detroit Lions' training bubble. That's two, count 'em, TWO domes full of outdoor excitement! The training bubble will house a full acre of fishing tackle and fishing boats, making the Silverdome show the state's largest sport show in retail fishing equipment, hands down!!

Also new this year at the show is FREE ADMISSION! That's right, free admission is being offered to any show visitor on opening day who donates a bag of non-perishable food to the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger show booth (the same free admission policy on opening day applies to the shows in Lansing and Grand Rapids). Your good deed will be rewarded: bring that bag of food for the less fortunate and get in free!

The always-popular Super Clinics have also been expanded for 2002. This year, anglers can choose from Super Walleye, Super Bass, Super Salmon, or Fishing 101 clinics. As in years past, pre-registration and a fee of $20 is required. In addition to the extensive two-hour seminars, participants will receive a free "goodie bag" of merchandise worth more than the price of admission, the chance for some great door prizes, and various discount coupons!

In keeping with ShowSpan's tradition of offering the most, and best, in seminars, David Rose will host a new Fishing Workshops booth that is designed for small groups of five to ten participants a 'hands on' opportunity to learn basic fishing skills, and lots of useful fishing tips. These seminars are brief, to the point, and packed with information every angler can use. Don't miss this new and exciting show feature.

The regular lineup of seminars show-goers have come to expect hasn't gone away. In addition to the Super Clinics and the new Fishing Workshops, visitors will be treated to dozens of fishing, hunting and other seminar topics that are free of charge and open to everyone. Top seminar presenters to especially watch for include BassMaster Classic Champion Kevin Van Dam, outdoor writer and book author Tom Huggler, writer/author Mark Romanack, magazine editor and fishing specialist Dan Donarski, Steelhead specialist Jim Bedford, Great Lakes guide Mike Gnatkowski, Walleye guide Tom Irwin, and many others.

One new show attraction, featured at the Lansing show only, is a live, 1,200-pound Kodiak grizzly bear. That's right, a live grizzly bear will be on display as part of an educational program no one will want to miss! You might want to make the drive up there just to see it!!

Other entertaining show attractions include the Scheer's Lumberjack Competition; Twiggy, the Water-skiing Squirrel; the Parabounce; Jeep's Rock Climbing Wall; trout ponds; the Hawg Trough; an antique lure display; taxidermy displays; wood-carvers; and many other fine, interesting features and attractions.

For a complete listing of all show dates, times, hours, and admission fees, just log onto **www.showspan.com** and click on the icon for the show(s) in which you are interested. This outstanding, comprehensive web site offers all the details you'll need for the various shows, including maps and directions to the shows, seminar schedules, discount coupons, and show floor plans right at your fingertips.

So, the tradition continues. The Michigan Boat, Sport & Fishing Show at the Pontiac Silverdome is a Michigan outdoor tradition, as are the shows in Lansing and Grand Rapids. Plan a visit to a "Mega-Show" this year and find out for yourself why, for 57 years, ShowSpan has been leading the way in show-going fun and adventure.

– Mark Romanack

Detroit Area Steelheaders "Top Five" Skippers

(1976-2001 – 1st place finishers are annual "Skipper of the Year" award winners)

2001

1) ..... Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream II"
2) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
3) ..... Joe Von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"
4) ..... Mike Vigus, "Crusader"
5) ..... Doug Karakas, "Capt'n Hook II"

2000

1) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
2) ..... Stan Bilek, "Blue Star"
3) ... Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream II"
4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
5) ..... Bill Nutting, "Just Once"

1999

1) .. Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream"
1) ..... Stan Bilek, "Blue Star"
3) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
5) ..... Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle III"

1998

1) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
2) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
3) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
4) ..... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
5) ..... Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle III"

1997

1) ..... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
2) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
3) ..... Paul Colone, "The Kidd"
4) ..... Bob Buero, "Mickey Mouse"
5) ..... Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"

1996

1) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
2) .... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
3) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
4) ..... Paul Nowak, "Nothin' But Fun"
5) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"

1995

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
3) ..... Daniel Dima, "Taz"
4) .... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
5) ..... Dave Roehr, "Floating Holiday"

1994

1) ..... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
2) ..... Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"
3) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
4) ..... Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"
5) ..... Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle Two"

1993

1) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
2) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
3) ..... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
4) ..... Leon Van Eden, "Bullhead"
5) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"

1992

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
3) ..... Tom Moores, "Karefree"
4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
5) ..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"

1991

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
3) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
5) ..... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"

1990

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
3) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
4) ..... Rob Pinskey, "Anticipation"
5) ..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"

1989

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"
3) ..... Ron Huey, "Half R's"
4) ..... Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"
5) ..... Don Anton, "Happy Bare"

1988

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
3) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
4) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
5) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"

1987

1) ..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"
2) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
3) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
4) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"
5) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"

1986

1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
2) ..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"
3) ..... Chuck Wood, "Predator"
4) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
5) ..... Blaise Pewinski, "Sea Hag"

1985

1) ..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"
2) ..... Joel Garinger, "Fishbusters"
3) ..... Bruce Choinski, "Kneeknocker"
4) ..... Tom Chojnowski, "Sea Con"
5) ..... Ed McIntosh, "Sweet Lorraine"

1984

1) ..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"
2) ..... Ed Choinski, "Kneeknocker"
3) ..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"
4) ..... Bob Ksionzek, "Last Dime"
5) ..... Mike Zelkowski, "Elvira"

1983

1) ..... Gerry Ciurzenski, "Jawbuster"
2) ..... Mike Boroniec, "Horsefly"
3) ..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"
4) ..... Bob Kozar, "Snowman"
5) ..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"

1982

1) ..... Brian Glaser, "Least Likely"
2) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
3) ..... Mike Curzenski, "Nooner"
4) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"
5) ..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"

1981

1) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"
2) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
3) ..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"
4) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
5) ..... Jewell Harris, "Cannonball"

1980

1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
2) ..... Terry Cholette, "Fishing Fever"
3) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
4) ..... Randy Cope, "Ouzo Too"
5) ..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"

1979

1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
2) ..... Howard Mills, "Paramour"
3) ..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"
4) ..... Jim Treadaway, "Okie Drifter"
5) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"

1978

1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"

Complete standings for 1978 are unavailable

1977

1) ..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"
2) ..... John Makela, "Sisu"
3) ..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"
4) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"
5) ..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"

1976

1) ..... John Makela, "Sisu"
2) ..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5'
3) ..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"
4) ... Paul Irvine *(boat name unavailable)*
5) ..... Steve Hamilton, "Valhalla"

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Stosiak previews 2002 Detroit Area Steelheaders Boat Trolling tourneys

A look ahead at the 2002 Boat Trolling tournament schedule suggests another very promising season for Detroit Area Steelheaders. Except for water levels, which are again expected to be down, we believe there is an excellent chance to surpass the fine results of the 2001 boat trolling tournament season!

In 2001, Detroit Area Steelheaders caught a total of 1,112 Salmon and Trout at the eight tournaments we staged around the state. The combined catch broke down this way: 632 King Salmon, 387 Lake Trout, 66 Steelhead Trout, 22 Coho Salmon, 4 Brown Trout, and 1 Pink Salmon. The best event for our tourney fleet last season was the two-day at Grand Haven. On Saturday, the 21 boats entered brought a total of 184 fish to the scales, while on Sunday, the results 'slipped' to only 174 fish caught. Needless to say, we will be returning to Grand Haven this season!

Our first tournament of 2002 is the season's most important, the annual River Crab Salmon Stakes on April 27 on the lower portion of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. It's a charity event as well as a club tourney, so this is one where we hope to see all Detroit Area Steelheaders participating.

Our second trip will be to St. Joseph/Benton Harbor on May 4. Coho Salmon are the main targets here, but King Salmon can also show up in abundance to provide us with some nice spring fishing. Try using small spoons and body baits on in-line planer boards. Last year, the best spot was right out in front, working the river mud line. Don't forget about the Cook Nuclear Power Plant, or the junk cars. Another idea would be north toward the clay banks.

Following St. Joseph, we will again work the south end of Lake Michigan, this time at the port of Grand Haven on May 18-19. This will be our only two-day tourney, and if the last couple of years we've enjoyed are any indicators, this should be one of our best of the entire season. The fish at Grand Haven can be scattered, so it's best to check with the local tackle shop, or on line, for up-to-the-minute fishing info. Spoons and flashers are most productive.

GREAT FISHING DAYS are expected to be a regular feature of Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments again in 2002!

Our fourth trip of the season will take us to the tip of the Thumb at Port Austin on June 1-2. This is our annual Team Doubles tourney weekend, with the main tournament set on Saturday, and Sunday reserved for a Team Doubles event. A Team Doubles offers a way for Detroit Steelheader members to get together and help each other out with tips and techniques. Saturday's first-place boat is paired with the last-place finisher, the second-place with the next-to-last, and so on. It's lots of fun, so you ought to try to get in on it.

June 15 will find us south at Toledo Beach Marina for our annual "Special People" Walleye Outing. At this Outing, Detroit Steelheader skippers offer the use of their boats, and they and their crews donate their time to provide some very Special People with a fun day of Walleye fishing on Lake Erie. This most important and satisfying outing wraps up with a shore lunch and party after the fishing. Come on out and join us – you won't regret it!

Our next tournament will take place on June 29 at Harbor Beach on Lake Huron. Over the years, this has proved to be a "hit or miss" port, so good luck and watch out for the rocks.

Two weeks later (July 13), we'll roll into Erieau on Lake Ontario for another Outing dedicated to having fun. We get together this time in pursuit of the highly prized and elusive Steelhead. This port was very productive last year, so much so that I went over there three weekends in a row. Suffice it to say, limit catches are common.

Ludington on July 27 is stop number six on our boat trolling "tourney journey," bringing our fleet back to the west side of the state, where we will finish out the 2002 season. This event will be our Ladies Day tournament for the season, where the guys set the lines, drive the boat, net the fish, and wait on our ladies hand and foot . . . OOPS!

We go right back to Ludington for our next tournament, on August 10. We made this somewhat unusual scheduling decision so the guys will quit whining that they didn't get to catch any fish last time at Ludington because the ladies got to do all the fishing!!

Manistee on August 24 is the eighth tournament on the schedule, and remember, this is the time of year that a lot of Master Angler award fish are caught here. Get those flashers and flies ready, but don't forget the dodgers and squids. Also, J-Plugs and magnum spoons will work here, so don't neglect them either.

Last but not least, we will wrap up the 2002 Boat Trolling Tournaments season on September 7 at Frankfort. The Coho Salmon should be staging in Platte Bay at that time, so they will be your best bet for some good eating fish. Don't overlook out front or at the Point for some BIG King Salmon either.

This is my last year serving as Boat Trolling Chairman, and I would like to publicly thank all my Port Captains for all the good work they have done the past couple of years. Great job, guys and gals – let's have another great season!

– **Mark Stosiak,** Boat Trolling Director

2001 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Tournament & Date	King Salmon	Lake Trout	Brown Trout	Steelhead	Coho Salmon	Pink Salmon	Total Catch	Total Boats	Fish/ Boat
RIVER CRAB (April 25)	*Species info not available – 54 boats caught 578.6# of fish, an average of 10.71 lbs/boat*								
ST. JOSEPH (May 5)	59	24	0	2	2	0	87	16	5.44
GRAND HAVEN (May 19-20)	**294**	49	0	14	1	0	358	21	8.52*
PORT AUSTIN (June 2)	8	**229**	0	2	0	**1**	240	30	8.00
HARRISVILLE (June 23)	7	37	0	8	0	0	52	14	3.71
FRANKFORT (July 28)	60	19	1	**30**	7	0	117	27	4.33
LUDINGTON (August 11)	80	24	**3**	6	2	0	115	27	4.26
MANISTEE (August 25)	78	5	0	3	**10**	0	96	32	3.00
ROGERS CITY (September 8)	46	0	0	1	0	0	47	16	2.94
2001 TOTALS	**632**	**387**	**4**	**66**	**22**	**1**	**1112**	**204†**	**5.45**

NOTE: TOTALS DO NOT INCLUDE RIVER CRAB RESULTS

** Average is fish per boat per day of tournament*

† 21 boats added to total for 2nd day of Grand Haven tournament

• • •

2001 BIGGEST FISH RESULTS (BY SPECIES)

Species	Weight	Port	Skipper	Boat
Chinook Salmon	28 lbs., 7 ozs.	Manistee	Blaise Pewinski	"Sea Hag"
Coho Salmon	9 lbs., 3 ozs.	Manistee	Daniel Dima	"Taz"
Steelhead	16 lbs., 15 ozs.	Frankfort	Ken Kuhar	"Mary K"
Brown Trout	17 lbs., 6 ozs.	Ludington	Mark Bevans	"In-Seine"
Lake Trout	14 lbs., 0 ozs.	St. Joseph	Bob Jones	"Bobby's Toy"
Pink Salmon	2 lbs., 5 ozs.	Port Austin	Richard Kittle	"Spoda B"

• • •

Most Improved Skipper of the Year: MIKE VIGUS, "CRUSADER"

Rookie Skipper of the Year: DEAN MEYERS, "TRIP-N-DIPSY"

SALMON SMOKING

This recipe has been a favorite of club members over the years. It will make enough to smoke about 10 pounds of fish.

BRINE INGREDIENTS

1 quart Water
2 cups Brown Sugar
1 cup Kosher Curing Salt
1 cup Rock Salt
1/4 tsp. Pepper
2 capsfull Lemon Juice
2 Bay Leaves
5 shakes Onion Salt
5 shakes Garlic Salt

NOTE: Be sure to mix these ingredients in a crock, or a glass or Tupperware container ONLY.

BRINING METHOD

Place the fish in a crock, or Tupperware or glass container skin side up and cover with brine. Place something on top of the pieces of fish to hold them down under the surface of the brine (do NOT use anything made out of metal!). Cure the fish in the brine for five to six hours. Thoroughly rinse each piece of fish separately in cold water, and then air on paper toweling for one hour with the skin side down. At this time, plug in your smoker to pre-heat it. The fish will get a tacky glaze on the outside of the flesh when it is ready to place into the smoker.

SMOKING METHOD

Arrange the fish pieces on racks skin side down, with thick pieces on the bottom racks and thinner ones toward the top of the smoker. The pieces should not touch each other. Do not oil the racks. Smoke the fish for five to six hours. Place one pan of apple wood chips in the smoker every 90 minutes. Use a total of three pans of wood only. Chill the fish to room temperature before placing in refrigerator or freezer.

– **Roger Rice**

WANT ADS

FOR SALE – 1996 Chevy Tahoe 4-door, 2-wheel drive, $10,500.00 or best offer. Call for more info.
Call Ty: (586) 247-9473

FOR SALE – Garlink engine bracket, new in the box, $175.00.
Call Ty: (586) 247-9473

FOR SALE – 2000 Mercury 4-stroke (Big Foot), electric start, controls and cablers, 25 hours, $2,800.00. Call for more info.
Call Ty: (586) 247-9473

FOR SALE – E-Z Steer bar steering system, $125.00.
Call Ty: (586) 247-9473

FOR SALE – Teakwood Swim Platform, 19 inches x 42 inches, $100.00.
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FOR SALE – Cut Bait. You'll want to try it behind a dodger or FishCatcher! Only $4.50/tray, 3 trays/$12.00, 10 trays/$30.00.
Call Keith: (248) 548-1166

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Dodgers and flashers can be deadly trolling fish attractors

Combined with the effectiveness of fundamental trolling techniques, flashers and dodgers can be deadly fish attractors in both fresh and salt water. They are rigged in the line between the lure and downriggers release, diver, or lead to provide attraction and impart erratic action to trailing lures such as plugs, spoons, flies, or plastic squids.

Trolling with dodgers or flashers produces excellent results because you can cover a large amount of water in a very short time, thereby locating concentrations of fish with the least amount of time and effort expended. The flash and sound of these attractors draws fish from considerable distances, allowing you to cover a wider swath of water effectively with each pass . . . a big advantage when prospecting unknown waters, or when fish are scattered.

Successful trolling requires a knowledge of fish and their habits, proper equipment, the ability to troll various depths and a willingness to experiment with different attractors, lures and color patterns.

Tackle for trolling dodgers or flashers consists of a stout 7- to 9-foot trolling rod, free-spool-type star-drag reel filled with 20- to 30-pound test premium monofilament line, and a downrigger, diver or selection of lead weights to get your offering down into fish territory.

DODGERS vs. FLASHERS

The big difference between dodgers and flashers is the way they run through the water when being trolled. A dodger has a side-to-side swaying action, while a flasher develops full 360° rotations. This provides you with two completely different types of attractors, each giving off specific flash and vibration patterns.

Flashers and dodgers impart an erratic, darting action to trailing lures and produce fish-attracting flash and sound. Plugs, spoons, flies, and squids all can be used with a dodger, which transfers a crippled bait fish action to these lures. Flies and squids are best used behind an Abe 'n Al® rotating flasher because they have no action of their own in the water, and the flasher provides an erratic natural bait fish action.

For dodgers, the correct fish-attracting speed and action is achieved when the attractor has a side-to-side swaying motion. With your boat moving "dead slow," place a rigged dodger-and-lure setup in the water (see illustrations) and slowly increase your speed until the dodger has developed the proper action. This is your optimum trolling speed.

Optimum rotating flasher speed, on the other hand, is obtained when the attractor is working in regular full 360° rotations. With your boat in motion, place a rigged flasher-and-lure setup in the water (see illustrations) and increase your speed until the flasher develops these regular full revolutions. **NOTE:** Flashers generally work better at slightly faster speeds than dodgers.

DODGER RIGGING

Shown in the diagrams below are various ways to rig a dodger for trolling. Note the recommended leader-to-lure lengths and leader from weight-to-dodger lengths carefully, as too long a leader will negatively affect lure action. Also, too short of a leader from lead, diver, or downrigger release to the dodger will restrict the action of the dodger and inhibit its fish-attracting capabilities. These same leader length rules also apply to flashers.

Dodgers can be used with a keel-type sinker, behind divers such as the Pink Lady®, Deep Six®, or Dipsy Diver®, or behind a downrigger release, all of which are diagrammed above.

FLASHER RIGGING

The other illustrations present two proven ways to rig a flasher for trolling. Remember that the correct fish-attracting speed for a rotating flasher occurs when it is being pulled through the water just fast enough to make complete 360° regular rotations. This will result in a steady 'throb-throb-pause, throb-throb-pause' action at your rod tip.

When using up to six ounces of weight, keel-type sinkers are adequate, but when more weight is required, it is suggested that you use an Abe 'n Al® 3-way swivel and round lead ball as it will maintain maximum flasher-to-lure transferred action and minimize the possibility of tangles and line twist.

The most popular color finishes for dodgers and flashers are Chrome, Chrome/Silver Prism-Lite® and Fire. Hammered Chrome flashers and dodgers, however, are being used more and more, as they disperse light in all directions, the same as do the Prism-Lite® finishes. In the Great Lakes, Fire, Chartreuse, Watermelon, and Kelly Green models are increasingly popular. In the Pacific Northwest, White and 50/50 Brass/Chrome are very productive.

These are only a few of the colors available for the Abe 'n Al®, Alaskan Eagle and Jensen Dodger models from Luhr Jensen. The smaller of the Jensen Dodgers, the #040 (4" x $1^3/_8$") and #030 ($4^5/_8$" x $1^1/_2$") are generally used for Trout or Kokanee fishing, while the larger sizes are preferred for Salmon and other big fish. The size of dodger you select should be based somewhat on the size of the trailing lure you wish to use. For instance, a large J-Plug® might overpower the action of a small #030 dodger, so a larger one such as the #007, #000, or even the large #001 should be used. If you're going to fish deep, larger dodgers will provide more flash and stronger vibration, which can draw fish from farther away. In clear or shallow water conditions, a small dodger might be used.

The Abe 'n Al® flashers are available in five sizes, ranging from the smallest, #006 (6" x 1"), to the largest, #002 ($13^1/_2$" x $2^5/_8$"). The #006 is best used for Trout on light gear, while the larger ones should be used for Salmon, other big fish, or in deep trolling conditions. The largest (#002) should be used for deep, heavy trolling conditions.

FISH PREFERENCES

Following are some helpful tips relating to particular fish species. Although there are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to fishing, there are many regularly observed fish habits and preferences that will give you a definite edge if you're familiar with them.

COHO SALMON: When the temperature is right in fresh water, and during most of their life in salt water, Coho Salmon are surface- or shallow-water oriented. They generally can be found at depths less than 50' and are a fast fish when compared with Chinook Salmon or Lake Trout. They especially like the fast action of a dodger (#007 or #000 are popular) in combination with flies and squids. The rule of thumb for a fly or squid lure behind a dodger is to use a leader of about $1^1/_2$ times the length of the dodger. In the Great Lakes, some anglers have been successful with leaders as short as 6" These impart incredibly fast action to the trailing lure. The principle here is to use a longer leader for slower action, and a shorter one for faster action. Since it is easier to shorten a leader than to change to a longer one, start with 12"-18" and then shorten it until you achieve the desired lure action. A super-fast action fly used in combination with a dodger is deadly for Coho. Some effective spoons to try are the Kokanee King, Krocodile®, #31 Alpena Diamond, and the Coyote.

CHINOOK SALMON: When compared with Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon prefer deeper water and larger, slower-action lures and attractors. They often shy away from unnatural movements in the water, so longer leaders are generally used. The Abe 'n Al® flasher is a proven attractor for deep-water Chinook, and its lazy, rotating action is often exactly what turns them on. When used with flies or squids, leader lengths between lure and flasher should be $1^1/_2$-$2^1/_2$ times the flasher length, or between 18"-30". The longer the leader, the slower, more deliberate the action imparted to the lure.

Chinook and Coho in most of the Great Lakes grow to trophy size feeding primarily on forage fish. Consequently, the most productive baits for trolling with flashers there are whole herring, plug-cut herring, herring strips, and plastic squids baited with a herring strip. Rigged correctly, a whole herring will roll in a slight arc at a rate of about one to two revolutions per second. The Herring Aid® provides one of the simplest, most effective ways to rig whole herring to produce an effective rolling action at slow trolling speeds. The #2 size works best in the Great Lakes, where alewives average 6 to 7 inches in length.

LAKE TROUT: As with Chinook, Lake Trout prefer slow, deliberate-action attractors and lures. Dodger-and-fly, dodger-and-spoon, or dodger-and-plug combinations are all effective, provided they are fished slowly and deep with adequate leader lengths between the attractor and lure. For Lake Trout, leaders should be from 16- to 24-inches (sometimes even more) between the dodger and lure, as this will promote slower action from the lure itself . . . an action often productive for Lakers. Small squids and flies, usually rigged with a treble hook if allowed, are preferred. Some good spoons to try are the Krocodile®, Flutter Spoon, Diamond King, or Alpena Diamond.

SALT vs. FRESH WATER

When trolling in salt water, you'll find the optimum feeding and fish-catching times during low-light periods, and from an hour before, during and after a tide change. Fish area where birds are working on bait fish schools, and troll the clean sides of rips.

In fresh water, such as in the Great Lakes, the time of day isn't nearly as critical as locating the depth of the preferred temperature level for the species of fish you are seeking . . . the thermocline. Lakes stratify into three separate layers of water in the spring, and stay that way until cold weather. The middle layer, where there is a larger concentration of dissolved oxygen, bait fish, and, therefore, predator fish, is called the thermocline, and can usually be found from 10' to 80' down. This is a temperature layer as well as an oxygen-saturated layer, and fish will relate to it as both a comfort zone and one where their body metabolism functions the most efficiently. These fish will be suspended and feeding on alewives, smelt or other forage fish.

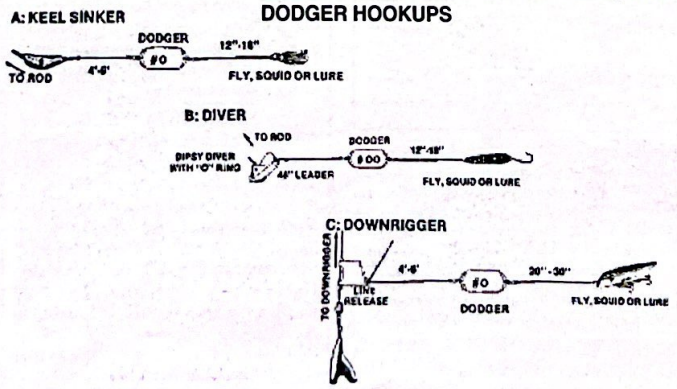
The peak feeding and optimum temperature for Coho and Chinook is 54° F, with an active range from 44° F to 58° F. For Lake Trout, the peak feeding and optimum temperature is 51° F, with activity from 43° F to 53° F. Fish will rarely venture out of these preferred zones once stratification has taken place, except to catch a meal and then will quickly return to it. Once thing to remember when fishing the thermocline is that its depth can change from day to day because of wind and/or wave action. It may be several feet deeper or shallower from one day to the next, so you'll have to relocate it each time you go out to fish.

SHARP HOOKS

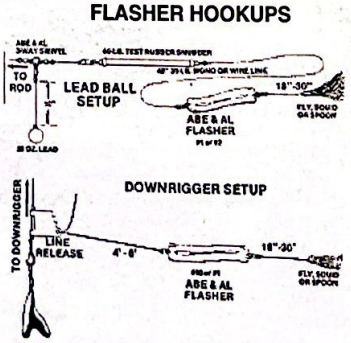
One last thing: **SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!** One of the easiest things you can do to improve your catch is to maintain super-sharp hooks at all times. A small file, such as the Sharp Hook File, has proved to be the absolute best fish hook sharpening tool available, and will produce a needle-sharp point in seconds. Hold the file parallel to the hook point and, with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal from at least two sides of the point. This will create both a 'sticky-sharp' point and a knife-like cutting edge.

From Luhr Jensen Tech Reports at luhr-jensen.com

DODGER HOOKUPS



FLASHER HOOKUPS



Secrets of the new "FishCatcher" setup

The new "FishCatcher" was one of the hottest new setups to come along in recent years. It was the talk of Lake Michigan anglers all during 2001. Here's some insights and information about their product taken from their web site. – *Editor*

The critical differences between Bechhold and Sons flashers and the competition are as follows.

The "FishCatcher" flashers by Bechhold turn in a tighter circle on the front end of the flasher and a larger radius on the butt end. This results in more 'kick' on your bait or lure running off an 18"-24" tail leader.

Also, more water distortion results from a funnel-like effect created by, and trailing, the Bechhold flashers. Water distortion creates sound. Fish are manipulated by sight, smell, and SOUND. This 'sound effect' cannot be reproduced by competing flashers.

"FishCatcher" flashers will work properly at the slowest trolling speed your boat is capable of maintaining. They will also work at the fastest trolling speeds you wish to employ. They are, we believe, simply the most versatile trolling flasher when it comes to both slow and fast trolling speeds.

Competing flashers turn in an equal circle once they rotate over. These other flashers act like dodgers. They simply do not rotate at slow speeds, but rather rotate in a half-moon configuration. Less kick equals less water distortion and sound, and that means LESS FISH!

Our flasher is the ONLY flasher that rotates throughout a complete 360° range AT SLOW TROLLING SPEEDS! Trying is believing. Call 1-888-472-4673 to order.

Adapted from the Bechhold and Son web site www.fishcatcher.com/FishCatcher.html

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Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

ATTENTION ALL DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! It's almost here! Get ready to really enjoy yourselves and have a great time at the annual Detroit Area Steelheaders Valentine's Day Dinner Dance!!

This year's version of one of our most popular and enjoyable club activities will take place on Saturday, February 16, 2002 at the K. of C. Hall, St. Pius X Council No. 3848, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings (see map on Page Three). In addition to great music, we will again be featuring the good food and drinks that have become fixtures of this highly anticipated affair.

This has been a fun-filled event every year, and if for some reason you haven't yet made the decision to participate, just ask those who have been there in past years. If you do, I guarantee that they'll tell you it's a great Steelheader occasion that you just don't want to miss.

Tickets for the 2002 edition of this gala event are only $70 per couple, and when you stop to consider that your tickets entitle you to great food, an open bar, dancing, and a chance at the door prize, you will agree that this represents a real bargain. For tickets, please contact Mary Karakas at the January membership meeting, or call her at (248) 545-1181.

As in the past, there will be separate raffles for the guys, and also for the gals (although many gals win in the guys raffle, too!). We are still in need of prize donations. Prizes do not have to fishing-oriented – in past years, people have donated crafts, services, and many other things that make terrific raffle prizes. Believe it or not, some wives just don't want to win a fishin' rod! So if you have something you would like to contribute for the raffles, please contact Doug Karakas or Bob Mitchell.

Steelheaders, don't miss out on this opportunity to show your spouse a great time. It could go a long way toward smoothing the path come summertime when it's time for you to go fishing!

THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion, with good food, music, and friends adding up to A GREAT TIME! Each year, those who attend really enjoy themselves, so COME AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES!!

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ENJOYED GREAT FISHING & FUN IN 2001!!

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Getting started fishing the Great Lakes for Salmon & Trout

You just went on your first Great Lakes Salmon charter or you helped crew a buddy's boat. Now the fishing bug has bitten, and you find yourself thinking, "I want to fish for Salmon on my own boat!" The very next thought you have is, "What tackle do I need?"

Fishing for Salmon and Trout on the Great Lakes requires specialized equipment. Sure, you can catch a Salmon on Bass or Walleye gear, but sooner or later you'll end up going toe to fin with a big King, and you'll have your first tackle lesson.

Buy good stuff! If you just go out and buy the cheapest equipment you can find, it will cost you more in the long run. Find out what the "right stuff" is and buy it. You'll be better off.

RODS & REELS

Let's start with rods and reels. For Salmon, Lake Trout and Steelhead on the Big Lakes, you need big equipment. Most Steelheaders use rods that are about 8' 6" in length. Buy four to six graphite rods from a reputable manufacturer. The rod action should be light to medium. My personal favorite is a Shakespeare Ugly Stick, but they will cost about $50 each. You can buy adequate rods for about half that price, and you may even find some on clearance for around $20.

Buy good reels. A big King can easily steal all your line if you are using a cheap reel, burning up the reel drag mechanism in the process. Good reels will probably cost about $50 each. I'd suggest the Daiwa #47H, Daiwa #47LC line counter, Shimano #GT2000, or Penn #GTi320. Cheaper reels are often hard on your line, too. Lots of guys buy Penn #209's, but those have a bad habit of allowing the line to get between the spool and frame, cutting it in the process.

It's better to buy a quality used reel than to buy a cheap new one. Buy cheap reels and when you finally decide you want good ones (and you will eventually come to that decision!), your cheap ones will be worthless. Buy good reels, and should you decide you want to go back to bluegill fishing, someone will buy them from you. In the end, good reels are the least costly.

LINE

Use fresh line. I spool new line every year. This might be considered overkill, but line is cheap in the overall scheme of things. Buy a bulk spool of name-brand line: Stren, Berkley Trilene XT, Ande, or Silver Thread. Most guys will use 20-pound test line. I'll occasionally go to 17-pound test.

Try 30-pound Trilene Solar on Dipsy Divers. It makes it really easy to see exactly where your lines are. For the past two years I have also been using the new Spectra braided lines (i.e., Spider Wire) on my Dipsys. They are 50-pound to 75-pound test with the diameter of 20-pound to 25-pound test monofilament. I really like them for Dipsys, which are much easier to trip with the no-stretch Spectra. However, some guys don't like them. I'm really interested in testing the new fluorocarbon lines for leader material. Stay tuned!

LURES

Guys waste more of their money buying lures than anything else. Lots of fishermen have tackle boxes stuffed full of "secret" lures that were used once and have been rusting ever since. Don't buy cheap lures. They'll end up sitting in your tackle box. It is better to spend $3 per spoon on proven lures than to spend $1.50 on a spoon you use once.

SPOONS

Spoons are the most versatile lures. I have great confidence in several manufacturers of spoons. I'd recommend Silver Streaks, NK 47's, or Northport Nailers. Pro spoons are favored by a number of Steelheaders. The Silver Streaks and NK's are silver-plated, which is important, especially if you're fishing deep. Silver reflects blue light better than chrome, and blue light penetrates deeper than other colors.

Spoons run best at a specific speed. Different brands often run best at different speeds. For that reason, it is best to stick with one or two brands and buy a variety of colors, rather than mixing and matching brands. Otherwise, you will be fishing one brand of spoon running at its optimum speed, while another brand will not be running at its optimum speed.

As for colors, I'd suggest silver-plated spoons accented with greens and/or yellows as the first choice. Be sure to include reds or oranges if you plan to target Steelhead. A couple of blacks with red tape and white or pearl should round out your selections. Also, when you go fishing, take the time to walk the docks and see which colors are hanging from poles on the top boats.

PLUGS

The next group of lures to consider is plugs. These are used mainly in the spring, when fishing shallow. If you have walleye baits such as Rapalas, they will suffice. If not, I'd suggest getting a selection of Long A Bombers. You never know which colors will turn out to be hot on a given day, but chartreuse, pearl, Wonderbread (white with multi-colored dots), and gold with an orange back are good starters. Remove the front hook and they will snag less on the bottom. Hot-N-Tots are also good choices, especially in magnums or regular sizes in silver plate or gold plate.

For the fall, you may want to try some J-Plugs. They haven't been that popular lately, but they do work in August and September for big Kings. I'd suggest chrome #4 Silver Bullets, gold plate, or lime green. For fishing the pier heads, I prefer a black J-Plug or two. Keep your eyes open. You can often find J-Plugs for $2 when they used to cost $5. I have faith in J-Plugs because they are used by West Coast commercial fishermen. They still work!

FISHING "JUNK"

The last category of equipment is what I call "junk." These are lures and attractors you will need for mid-summer Lake Trout fishing, and for Kings when they are really deep: 80'-100'. There are a number of specialized rigs, but, in my opinion, the Number One rig is the dodger and squid combination. My first choice is the Luhr Jensen chrome fluted dodger in the "0" size. White dodgers with pearl tape are also good. The Number One squid is Richey's Michigan Glow Squid. That combo will work 90% of the time. You can buy lots of other colors of dodgers and squids, but I bet you will run that setup most of the time.

Another lure to get to run behind dodgers for Lake Trout is the Spin-N-Glow. Get the big ones in chartreuse/red, white with dots, or green chrome. Last, cow bells sometimes outproduce dodgers. I like the real big ones (J &N's) trolled at a speed of 1 knot.

You will still need other miscellaneous items. Buy quality swivel snaps. Don't try to save 50 cents on swivels and end up losing $10 worth of lures. Buy various-sized rubber core sinkers to use with flat lines. Be sure to check each sinker to make sure it doesn't have a sharp edge that will cut or nick your line.

Buy several in-line side planer boards. My favorites are the Offshore Side-Planers, but many guys use Yellow Birds. These are great in the spring, or offshore for Steelhead. Buy a pair of Luhr Jensen Dipsy Divers; I prefer the big size with rings. Run them off to the side set on 1½ or 2. They add to your ability to run more lines and sometimes they prove to be the hot setup.

This list should help you to get started. Be sure to talk to other guys in our club. Ask them to point out their personal "hot" colors. Then get ready, because that big King is ready to take you on!

– Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

What is the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council?

Your dues and donations to the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (G.L.S.F.C.) help your organization promote sport fishing, conservation efforts, boating safety, and dissemination of information in the Great Lakes region. Your financial and moral support also helps Council programs such as information-gathering and reporting through the pages of *Great Lakes Basin Report*, meetings, conferences, and its award-winning web site.

Through our worldwide outreach efforts via the Internet's World Wide Web, the Council promotes your tournaments, sport shows, and other club activities.

Simply put, membership means increased political support for local and state organizations, and adds solvency and political strength to the Council

If you don't see information about *YOUR* group in the pages of *Great Lakes Basin Report*, find out if your group is sending a newsletter and/or otherwise providing information directly to the Report editor.

Include complete details about your activities and events, and try to send the information as much in advance as possible.

Be sure to include the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the appropriate individual to contact should more information be needed.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders present

2002 SPORTSMEN'S GAME DINNER

Saturday, March 9, 2002

at

Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center

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For tickets, info, etc., call: **Don Redmond, (586) 469-8344, Steve Hamilton, (313) 881-3871, or any Director**

E-Mail Info: **gamedinner@detroitsteelheaders.org**

SPACE IS LIMITED — ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

CREWS Hot Line

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Want to fish in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

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CREWS HOT LINE is a service for Detroit Area Steelheader members

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