



Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974



Volume 4 Issue 3

March 2020

March Membership Meeting Canceled

- **When:**
- Next meeting date TBD
- **Where:**
- American Polish Cultural Center
- NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre

DAS On the Interweb

www.detroitsteelheaders.com Post to the message board and check out the entire site.

Checkout us out on the Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders

NEW OFFICIAL GROUP PAGE!

Check out the new Facebook group page where you can post at: www.facebook.com/groups/2472219909666195

....COVID-19 UPDATE.....COVID-19 UPDATE.....COVID 19 UPDATE.....
In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, It is important for us to comply with CDC recommendations. All DAS activities are suspended until further notice. Board meetings, member meetings, AOTY events, SOTY events are off for now. The lone exception is the SIC releases that will take place.

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM RELEASE'S MOVED UP DUE TO VIRUS

All five of our participating schools, of course, are shut down. Three of the five had to release their Salmon because the schools were not allowing anyone in. So, we are improvising our Salmon in the Classroom release schedule. Monday, March 16, Independence Elementary of Clarkston released at the park across from Yates Cider Mill around 12 noon. They started



with 192 eggs and

we released 144 Salmon. Most of their losses were eggs in the first three weeks. The two teachers each brought their two children, so the six of them did many trips between the cooler and the river.

On Tuesday morning, March 17, Kennedy Middle School of St Clair Shores released their Salmon, 157 out of 183 eggs. Even with releasing early, they were of good size, averaging about 3-1/4 inches. Good Job. Ken Cione and Jim Zanke gave us a hand. I have to say, with me filling the plastic bags with water, the river water was a very cold 36 degrees. That afternoon I was at Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills filling the cooler



with more minnows. With their 130 gal tank it was a hard job catching all the fish. They learn quick so the last 25 fish must take the same effort as the first 118 fish. After cleaning up the tank and packing the truck, we were on our way. Getting to Yates about 5:00 pm, we got the last parking spot. With fishermen all around, we found about 10 Steelheaders that were happy to help us with the release. OCS released 143 Salmon, starting with 179 eggs, a very healthy 80% survival.

We wish to thank all the teachers, their schools, and our DAS members for their time and effort put forth to help educate the students of our outdoors. We are disappointed that this 'virus' has taken the release from the students who oversaw and helped raise the Salmon.

We have two schools yet to release their Salmon. They had gotten special permissions to get in the schools to care for the fish and we are all hoping that a month or so from now conditions may allow us our usual release scheme with their class students.



Index

- ◆ 2 Membership News
- ◆ 2 In Memory
- ◆ 2 Higgins Update
- ◆ 3 Flu Updates cont.
- ◆ 3 February Speaker
- ◆ 3 Special Friends
- ◆ 3 Ice report
- ◆ 4 SOTY Schedule
- ◆ 4 AOTY Schedule
- ◆ 4 Key Dates
- ◆ 4 Last Meeting

Last ice cover photo credit by Justin Clark aka JC Dropshot



NEW MEMBERS

Nick Jones
Dennis Kelley

Past Due

Steve Johnston
Aldavid Jimerson
Drew Headly
Robert Butkiewicz
Mark Gazda
Tracy Page

Past Due

Rabih Abdallah
Louie Balaze
Mark Wyrick
Tracy Stump
Nicholas Redash
Mark Paradise
Ron Pisarski
Elizabeth Kulpa

Renewed

Dan Chisholm
Fred Chartier
Don Jasman
Anthony Nowak
Dino Raptis
Matt Slamka

Due Now

Jason Brown

Due Now

Bruce Turnage
Andrew Stockton
Jacob Stewart
Blaise Pewinski
Chris Patterson
David Mayfield
Anthony Lewis
Charles Denning
Yaser Algharably
Hermann Christoph



- DAN CHISHOLM**
President
Website, Boat Trolling
586-530-9171
- BOB PARADISE**
Vice President
River, Surf & Pier
586-781-2543
- ROD ELNICK**
Treasurer
Salmon-In-Classroom, Scholarships
586-214-8812
- ANTHONY LEWIS**
Secretary
517-449-3036
- TOM GORGUZE**
Speakers & Education;
Hats, Shirts & Jackets, Publicity
Newsletter Publisher
248-343-8397
- BLAISE PEWINSKI**
Wild Game Dinner, AOTY
248-890-4517
- BOB FEISEL**
Boat Trolling, Donations &
Appropriations
248-765-2504
- KEN CIONE**
Membership, Speakers
248-227-1601
- STEVE PROUT**
Membership
810 923-1670
- CARL VENTIMIGLIA**
Wild Game Dinner
586-615-7459
- JIM ZANKE**
Special People, Shows, PA System
586-489-2041
- TOM (TNT) THIEDA**
River, Surf & Pier
586 206-5902
- JEFF BUSTOS**
Raffles
734 968-6143
- Assistants**
- STEVE HAMITON**
Club Historian
- LINDA BANBURY**
Special People
- MARY KARAKAS**
Special People
- DON MIKROS**
Newsletter/Printer
- PAUL GJELDUM**
Awards
- CHRIS NYTKO**
Facebook
Anna Kulpa

Higgins Lake Report, February 22, 2020 This account may be a little humorous but it is not a fairy tale.

Seven DAS anglers arrived at the W boat ramp by 0600 Saturday morning. Well, actually it was six anglers at the W boat ramp and me at the North ramp. Who knew there was more than one ramp? Actually there are three. We decided by phone to go out from the two ramps and meet on the lake. Bad call on my part. It was still dark until 0700 and finding them was a real challenge. My search was further complicated by my dead cell phone battery. In fact it was Blaise Pewinski who found me around 0730. Have you caught on that I was not exactly on top of my game that morning. After running my SnoDog all over Higgins Lake, finally, I was fishing.

Using blue minnows the seven DAS anglers employed jigging techniques and tip-ups in several different locations on the lake. We had people fishing from 30 fow to 100 fow trying to locate Lake Trout. One of the guys had a legitimate hit but the hook up did not last long. Others would mark fish but it would take the bait. After several unproductive hours we started using the smallest minnows we had and we switched our target to perch. Not a terrible decision because there are a lot of perch out there. Quite a few perch were caught but not very many big enough to eat.

Final count: Seven DAS anglers and 0 Lake Trout. This may (I hope) be the first time a DAS AOTY was a total skunk for the target fish.

Big Fish pool? We did a random draw for the big fish pool and it was won by Blaise Pewinski for \$35.

The shore lunch was pizza at the Silver Dollar Pub and Grill just down the street from the W DNR launch ramp (I had finally found it). Dan Chisholm



In memory, DAS member James Lorenzetti, age 39, passed away on March 4, 2020. Our condolences go out to his wife Nicole and son, Lucas age 5. James enjoyed attending our monthly membership meetings and participating in club tournaments. James worked for IBEW local 17 as an Electrical Maintenance Journeyman for DTE. In his spare time, he was an avid fisherman. James loved fishing. He lived to fish and put great care and love into his boats named "The Office" and "Sureking." One of James proudest moments was receiving his Captain's license in 2018.

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

SHOW SPECIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY \$20 Membership Application

New Member - \$35 Yearly Renewal - \$35 Yearly
Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly Address Change only

Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter) Amt. Paid \$_____

Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20

NAME		DATE	
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP		HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
BOAT NAME		E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Virus update Continued

With the schools closing we must get those fish out of the tanks now. Rodney has been on top of that. Thanks for your cooperation and patience. We hope to reschedule our March guest speaker, Capt. Ed Rutherford who operates Trout Scout V Charters out of Alpena. He'll be sharing his wealth of knowledge about Upper Lake Huron Salmon fishing. We will also be re-scheduling our April speaker from the National Weather Service. The local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will make a special presentation focused on marine weather. A determination on rescheduling any missed outings and tournaments will be made at a later date. We look forward to getting back on track when conditions improve and we can get back to fishing. Respectfully, your DAS board of directors



“Special Friends Day” Outing on June 6, On For Now

Each year our Detroit Area Steelheaders organization hosts a group of “Special Friends” for a day of fun and fishing on Lake Erie. What is this group of special friends? It’s a group of people young and not so young who face a physical or emotional challenge. They are men and women, children and adults who come together one day each year to spend a day with us having fun. “Special Friends Day” is a social outing with their friends where they spend the morning on Lake Erie catching fish. After fishing, lunch is provided under the big tent where our “Special Friends” socialize and show off their “days catch”. The remainder of the event is filled with pictures, prizes, and fun.

DAS sponsors this event as a way to give back to our community but its success comes from the experience of our members. Each person who helps out knows they are part of a worthwhile cause and the event is sustained because our members keep coming back. Special mention also goes out to Toledo Beach Marina. They donate the use of the marina each year and provide free launch and boat slips to help make this event a success.

In Case You Missed the February Meeting

Charter Captain and professional walleye angler, Ken Clark was our guest speaker for February’s general meeting. Ken provided DAS members with insights on the techniques he uses. First off he doesn’t place a big premium on colors. He typically rigs everyone on the boat with identical set-ups. When he trolls, he likes inline weights to get the presentation in the strike zone. If he’s jigging, Ken likes braid and says to “tie it directly to your jig. Don’t bury the stinger in the bait, let the treble trail by about an inch to minimize short hits.” You might want to try his favorite, a lemon lime 1 oz. jig and a black with green tail Wyandotte worm. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and attendees really appreciated the discount vouchers Ken passed around. Thanks Ken.



Does Color Make a Difference?

I am writing this article not to answer the question about color making a difference but rather to make an observation so you can make up your own mind. On February 29, 2020 Gaspare Aragona, Bob Paradise, and I went to Mitchell’s Bay to walk out to “back bay” to ice fish for perch. The ice thickness was marginal at 4 ½ inches, but the water in the bay is only about 4 feet so I figured if we got into trouble, we could probably find a way to get out of it. That is to say, I was desperate to ice fish and willing to take the chance.

After a long walk we got out on the bay with no problem. It was a grey and overcast sky with a 15-mph onshore wind. With the temperature in the high 20’s it was nice to be out there. The bite started out slow at first. Each hole we drilled produced maybe one or two perch before we moved on to find a better bite. If you have ever ice fished with Gaspare and Bob, you know they both work very hard to locate fish and will not stay at a dry hole for more than a few moments. They are constantly moving until they find what they want, “perch”. I can be a little more patient or maybe I’m just lazy, but I can stay in one spot for 10 or 15 minutes to see if the perch find me. The first hour to hour and a half went like that, one perch per hole, and we were catching, but not at the rate we prefer. The size of the perch we were catching was acceptable, so we were going to grind it out but that’s a side bar and not what I am writing about.



As time marched on we were spreading out and probably a quarter of a mile separated each one of us. Then, the entire trip changed when the sun eventually came out and the wind died down. I had just drilled a hole, dropped my jig down, and came up with a fish immediately. Then another, and another, and another, and it went like that for about 40 minutes. With sorting the catch for keepers, I was beginning to develop a pretty decent catch. Nothing that good lasts forever and the bite slowed down and I was back to grinding. That’s when I began to ponder the question “what just happened that made such a difference”?

Same depth, same water clarity and temperature, same area we had been working, and for the most part the same jig colors. We all have our “first out spoons” and mine is a pearl bead with a red eye. Gaspare had told me earlier that morning that he was using orange beads and green beads. I’m not sure but I think Bob prefers an anti-freeze bead. We were spread out by a quarter of a mile, but I noticed that Bob and Gaspare were in the same spot where I had last seen them 40 minutes ago. That means they had been catching at the same rate I was. Each of us using different colors.

Ken Clark, our February speaker, had made a strong point that he does not believe color makes any difference at all. He orders one color for all his charters and that color lasts the entire year for him. His charters are successful, or he could not stay in business so he must really believe color does “not” make any difference. What I observed on Mitchell’s Bay that day has made me a believer, at least on this day, lure color did not make a difference.

Dan Chisholm

Detroit Area Steelheaders
P.O. Box 1255
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Place Stamp
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Membership Expires:



2020 SOTY Tournament Schedule

Date	Port	Port Captain
May 2, 2020	St. Joseph	Brett Mauk
May 16/17, 2020	Grand Haven	Jim Zanke
May 30, 2020	Manistee	Bob Paradise
June 13, 2020	Harbor Beach	Joe von Grabe
July 11, 2020	Erieau	Dan Chisholm
August 1, 2020	Ludington	Bob Jones
August 22, 2020	Manistee	Tom Gorguze

2020 AOTY Outing Schedule

Date	Port	Coordinator	Event
Feb 22	Higgins Lake	D Chisholm	Lake Trout
March 28	Manistee River	A Kulpa/M Wyrick	Metro West fish-off
April 18	AuSable River	G Gross	Steelhead
April 25	St. Clair River	T Gorguze	Walleye
June 20	St. Clair River	E Paehlig/R Pinsky	Walleye
Sep 12	Monroe	G Aragona	Perch
Sep 26,	Manistee	J Anderson/L Gamblin	Steelhead/Salmon
Oct 31	Ludington	T Theida	Big Tom
Nov 7	Manistee	T Theida	Lakeshore Motel
Dec 12	Caseville	B Pewinski	Lake Trout

NOTICE

Due to the current situation with the Corona Virus, We regret to inform everyone that club activities are temporarily suspended until further notice. Everyone, please stay safe.

2020 February Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance: 60
Featured Guest: Capt. Ken Clark
Featured Presentations: All Season Walleye
50/50 Raffle Winner: \$175 Roger Paradise
Every Member Draw: \$50 Anthony Nowak