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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION



# WALLEYE WORLD

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF MICHIGAN'S WALLEYE FISHERY (SINCE JULY, 1976)

December 2019

<http://www.lscwa.net>

## LATE SEASON WALLEYE TROLLING By: Rich Benson

On a recent day in November, Don Murray and I headed out to do some cold-water walleye fishing. A lot of people head to the rivers to either jig, whip, or handline as some of the walleyes make their fall movements into the river systems. We were looking for the ones that stayed in the lake.

In my experience and opinion, the walleye in the lake this time of year relate to near shore vs. mid lake and there are a couple of reasons why. Food is the primary reason and it coincides with reason #2, which is water temp. The near shore waters do cool faster but they also warm when the sun is shining. There are also various outlets, creeks, drains, the spillway etc. that contribute to water flow/warmth. This is important to note for baitfish, warmer water increases zooplankton activity which in turn brings in the baitfish, specifically shad in the fall.

So back to the fishing trip. We headed out to the St. Clair Shores and Grosse Point area of Lake St. Clair. We quickly found all sorts of bait and walleyes in 13-15 ft of water with a 39-degree water temperature. Using the Precision Trolling App, we set our lures to run slightly above where we were marking walleyes. Within 10 minutes our first walleye came in on a Smithwick Top 20 in the Marvin color, 5 minutes later another hit it but it came unhooked. The water went from a stained green to a dingy brown color, the bait and walleyes were still there but not hitting anything so we made a move to water that was slightly clearer a few miles away. Setting our lines out on Offshore planer boards, we were running mostly Bandits now, 32-40' back at 1.3-1.6 mph. The eyes turned on for us. We boated 10 more eyes on our first pass in the new area, releasing more than half of them. Running back to where we started our troll previously, we again got right back into the fish, going through different pods getting 1-2 at a time.

As the water cleared more, I noticed that some of the walleye were now lower in the water column, 15' down in 18' of water. I made the adjustment to one of my lures, a khaki brown back Bandit, increasing the lead length to 55' to get it to run between 13-14 foot. Bam! Immediate reaction as a fish hit as soon as the planer board started coming forward. Two more fish would come on that bandit in the next 10 minutes. After I got a tangle, Don and I decided to call it a day, but it would be another 15 minutes or so until I cleared lines...my tangle was the result of two more walleye crossing each other!

The recap of what worked: trolling 1.3-1.6 mph, finding bait on the electronics, matching the forage base...perch colors and white colored body baits in clearer water. We boated well over 20 fish in 4 1/2 hours of fishing! If you can get out this fall, you may be rewarded with a great day of fishing like we were!



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**Derby Weigh-Ins** – Don Murray

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY ~ 7:30 P.M.**

*December 18, 2019*

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(Walk-ins Welcome)

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**Next Reg. Meeting: January 15, 2020**

**Log onto our website to find out what is happening in and around the Club**

**www.lscwa.net**

The **WALLEYE WORLD** is the official monthly newsletter of the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association (a 501c3 non-profit organization). We welcome all written/photo contributions from the members. Written/photo contributions can be submitted to editorlscwa@gmail.com. All written or photo contributions are the property of the LSCWA Walleye World and subject to edit. We reserve the right to refuse any material. Views and opinions expressed in the Walleye World are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the LSCWA, its members, or its advertisers. The LSCWA, the Walleye World or its publisher assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein. 700 copies printed each month (1,200 for Jan. & None for Nov.)

**EDITOR:** Sarah McNichol. Send articles and/or photos to editorlscwa@gmail.com

**ADVERTISING EDITOR:** Steve Sharon

**CONSERVATION PLEDGE**

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*Winter 2019*

Dec 18th..... General Membership (Xmas party)  
 Dec 30th..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Dec 25..... Merry Christmas!  
 Jan 9th-12th..... Ultimate Fishing Show in Novi  
 Jan 15th ..... General Membership meeting  
 Jan 21st ..... Board of Directors meeting  
 Jan 25th ..... Cold as Ice  
 Jan 26th ..... Kids Ice Outing

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How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

# BINGO

Prizes are mounting every week. Come on out give it a try and support your club. Prizes total **\$2200** every night or more!

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Doors open at 4PM • Play at 6PM  
*We are always looking for volunteers.  
See Rich at our meetings or events.*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hopefully everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Spending time with family and friends is something that should be done more often than just on holidays. Take some extra time this Christmas season and spend it with your family and friends. Take a second and reach out to those who are or may be having a difficult time this season. You might just cheer them up when they need it. After all OUR club is way more than just a fishing club.



Anyone get a deer? As of my writing this, I have not. Still got the long Thanksgiving weekend where hopefully I will be able to get out so I won't have to eat the bland, not so good, tag soup this winter. Send you pictures to the newsletter. Would love to see them.

Fishing was pretty good this fall. Many great reports and videos were on OUR Facebook page. The walleye fishery on Lake St. Clair is fantastic right now and is looking like it will be that way for a while to come. It has me excited for spring already. Ice fishing is right around the corner. First ice can be some of the best ice fishing. As always though, safety first. No fish is worth a life. Get out there but be safe doing it.

I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone that makes OUR club run. Without people stepping up we would not be able to do a lot of what we do, especially the crew that works bingo every week. I would like to see each and every one of you help out at bingo in 2020. This thank you includes OUR sponsors. Visit them this holiday season. They sure will appreciate it.

2020 is going to be an exciting time for OUR club. OUR membership is growing. Name recognition is increasing. May Madness is going to be bigger and better. With a bit of luck, we will have walleye to raise this spring. We will have OUR booth in Novi at the fishing show. Don't forget about our derbies. I also would like to see every member weigh a fish during the 2020 derby season. There is plenty to do. Be an active member of OUR club. You will be happy you did.

From me, Chrissy and the rest of my family we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may your livewells be full in 2020.

Tim

**291 CURRENT MEMBERS**

## DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December is our annual Christmas party. If you plan on attending please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the main course but are relying on you to provide all the side dishes. Hope to see you there.

## CHRISTMAS LURE TREE

The Christmas lure tree will be at the annual LSCWA Christmas party on December 18th. Please bring a new or gently used fishing lure(s) to hang from the tree. Raffle tickets will be sold for your chance to win. If you have any questions, please contact LSCWA board member Jeff VanTorre.

## 2020 NOVI FISHING SHOW

Yes, the Ultimate Fishing Show at Novi is coming! The dates are January 9th through the 12th 2020. The club will be setting up our club booth, or have the club's trailer at the show. We are working with the Novi show people to determine what the set-up display and location will be.

We are setting up the display on January 8th, 2020. Please remember that you can volunteer to help at the show to sell raffle tickets, or anything to help promote the club. All volunteers will get a pass for the length of show for free entry. If you would like to volunteer, please let Don Murray know so he can get you on the list for entry. You will be expected to help at the club's display.

It will be a great time to check out all the new equipment, ideas, to help you catch fish.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*To protect, preserve, and promote the walleye fishing in Michigan through conservation, education, and enhancing fishing opportunities for all; celebrating our tradition since 1976.*

# FIBERGLASS REPAIR REQUIRED

By: Dave Wilemski

Back in 2007, I wrote an article about repairing a dozen extra holes in my fiberglass boat. These were topside above the water-line. Now, I have to deal with a repair job roughly 9 inches wide x 2 inches long. Right where the transom meets the hull, just under the drain plug. Thanks to a boo-boo launching at Marine City DNR launch site. (live & learn)

I called P.G.A. but Gary said they were way too busy past February. He also never gave me a price. So, I may purchase a fiberglass repair kit from Walmart and give it a try myself this Spring. What could go wrong?

FISH 7 ON



Dan Schmidt and his granddaughter Nora with his 6 point buck he got bow hunting.

## DECEMBER 2019 FISH DERBY ARTICLE

This is the second article to help explain some of the details concerning the club's derbies. Our derbies are typically held at some of the tackle shops in our area that support the club. At any of these weigh-ins, the anglers will bring in at least one legal walleye for a chance to win a prize. The club buys raffle prizes at the tackle shop where the weigh in is being held. You don't have to have the biggest walleye to enter the drawing. We just require one legal walleye to get you a weigh slip entering you into a random drawing for prizes.

Another side event for the derbies is the big fish pot. This is voluntary, a club member collects \$10.00 per angler (entry price may change depending on the event). The amount of the total pot varies depending on the number of anglers that have entered for that derby. Joining big fish can help you win some extra gas money while you're having fun trying to catch big fish.

All it takes is YOU getting involved in the club derbies! We welcome all to the club derbies.

# NOVEMBER 2019 TREE HOUSE GET-TOGETHER *By: Dave Wilemski*

Last month, we visited one of our favorite breakfast places to host our monthly treehouse get-togethers- Gus' Coney Isle on Gratiot, just South of 23 Mile Rd. The food was great and we had lots of interesting discussions.

From left to right we have Curtis P., Dale B., Richard K. (sister) Joann K, John S, Mark C. and (past President) myself. Server Cheryl took nice pictures, however some of us were not smiling again. (see picture)

Richard and Joann told of their annual deer hunting trip way up north in the western part of the U.P. They passed on all the non-Boon & Crocket deer, resulting in NO venison.

Curtis went fishing in the Detroit River a day earlier and got skunked, while shore fisher-people (within eye sight) were hauling in walleye from ten feet of water along the shore-line. Go figure.?

Server Cheryl pulled the lucky tickets for our monthly free raffle. Prizes donated by Beacon Light. Dale walked away with a pair of state-of-the-art slip bobbers; John won a hand warmer.

We always skip the December breakfast get-together because of the Holidays. Also, the posted Benvenuto, scheduled get-together for January of 2020 will have to be changed. They do not open until 9 am. So, let's have it at Apple Annie's; 28030 Gratiot Ave, Roseville Where Utica runs into Gratiot. Great Place. We will have the 2020 schedule for January issue.

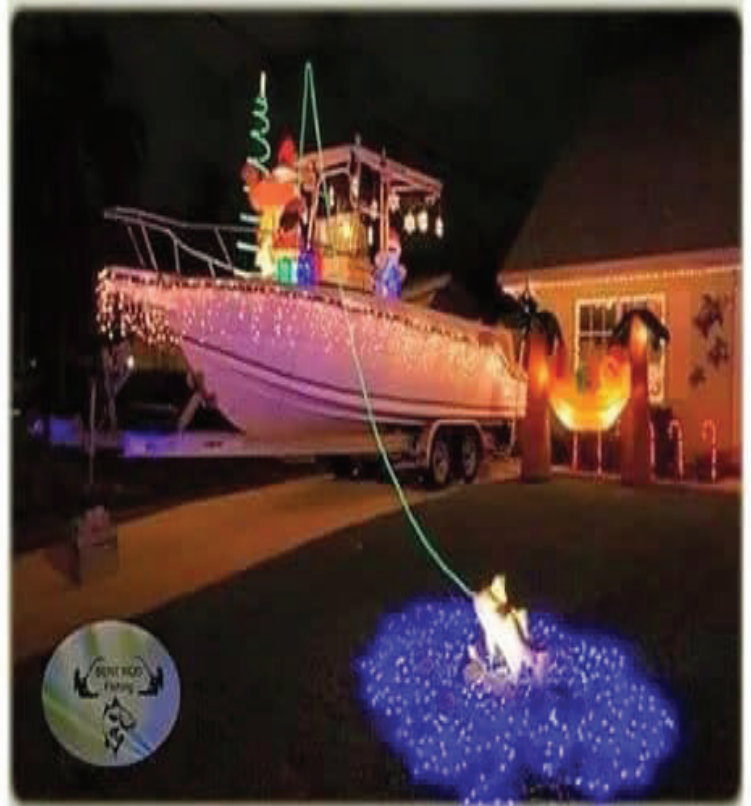
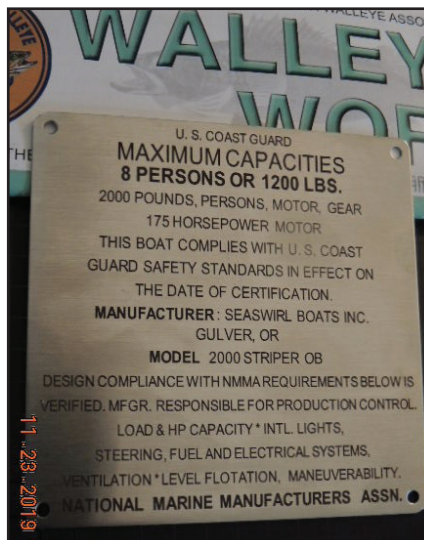
I had to leave early, because my house was surrounded by a six-inch-deep flooded yard. The rain & wind kicked up the waves to 4 to 5 feet, rolling over the seawalls. Had to install the yard sump pump again. Going to send my electric bill over to neighbors Debbie & Allen whose short seawall causes everyone else flooding problems.



## REPLACING THE REQUIRED SPEC PLATE ON YOUR BOAT *By: Dave Wilemski*

So, when I was cleaning my 20-foot Sea Swirl boat for the winter last month, I used my pressure washer to do a really good job. The problem was that the spec plate on the walk-through area of my bow rider was made out of silver paper and glued on. It did not stay on very well.

I copied down all the information on it and emailed it off to Laser Mark It in Richmond. They are located at 69080 Main St. 48062. For less than \$16.00 they produced a stainless-steel replica that looks better than the original. Complete with four mounting holes; so, I can install it exactly where the original one was located. (See Picture.)





Lake St. Clair Walleye Association's



2020 Annual Children's Ice Fishing Event!

Sunday, January 26th 9am – 2pm

(Makeup day February 9<sup>th</sup>)

Registration located at Lake St Clair Metro Park (Metro Beach), Day Sail Launch

Near the Surfside Shelter (Heated Restrooms!)

Free Event!

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Individuals or groups wishing to donate prizes may contact the Hot Line! Event is depending on acceptable ice conditions.



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