### LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 130 ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI 48080

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

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

January 2022

http://www.lscwa.net

# CHOOSING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

By Rob Barnes

Americans are resilient people. We have endured 2 years of a global pandemic, economic strain, and the stresses associated with navigating life with COVID. The outdoors and time on the water is and always will be a great way to connect with family, friends, and melt away the worries of the world. The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association has been about tradition and enjoying our fishing resources since 1976. We give back to our local community and encourage others to get involved with conservation, outdoor education, and friendly fishing competition.

#### **Choosing to Commit**

Choosing to be a member of the LSCWA is a commitment to standing by the values of our club which is to protect, preserve, and promote walleye fishing, through conservation, education, and enhancing fishing opportunities for all. When I pay my membership dues each year for my family I choose to do so because I am making the commitment to live by these values. As a member, I have voting rights to help shape the future of our great organization. Another perk of membership is it provides you with an opportunity to win door prizes at each general membership meeting.

#### **Choosing Community**

People are wired for community and camaraderie. Being a part of the club like the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association provides members with a community of like-minded individuals to connect with. Some of my best friends are part of this club. The reason is pretty clear- we share the same values and love time on the water. I always get excited to see my friends out on the lake and waving to say hi. Another perk of being a member is connecting with anglers who are more than willing to share knowledge and help you out.

#### Joining Us

The LSCWA has been resilient throughout the pandemic and has held in person meetings when possible. Our members are out on the water every day and help share knowledge. We are an affiliate member of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) which helps shape the future of Michigan's conservation efforts. You can sign up to become a member in person at one of our general membership meetings or online through our website. We hope to see you at a future meeting and look forward to welcoming you to the club.

LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

(586) 778-0480

#### **LSCWA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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2021-20232020-2021Richard KochDr. Kirk ClelandMike DemanskiJared RoeDan SchmidtRob BarnesMike RoushDick BensonTim MuirNick Marklowski

Past President (1 year), Rich Benson

#### **ALTERNATES**

Pete Kohnen

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS

# January 15th

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.)

**EDITORS:** Tim Muir & Jeff Vantorre Send articles and/or photos to editorlscwa@gmail.com

#### 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 2022

Jan 6-9.......Ultimate fishing show Novi

Jan 19th......Jan general membership meeting

Jan 25th......BOD meeting

Feb 16th......General membership meeting

Feb 20th......Kids ice outing at LSC metro park

Feb 22nd......BOD meeting

### **CUT OUT COUPON & MAIL**

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# **BINGO**

**EVERY SUNDAY** 

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.

# SPOT ON THE SPOT FOR WALLEYES

It's almost that time to start chasing walleyes through the ice this year. We can all agree that this year it's going to be a short season, make sure you everything ready to go when its "safe" enough to get out to where the walleyes roam during the winter period months. One of the best things to think about when chasing walleyes to make yourself more successful on such a short season like the one we are having right now is looking for the spot on the spot when on the ice. Here are a few things to think about when trying to accomplish this during ice fishing season.

When heading out on the ice to chase walleyes the number one tool you need to be more successful is a gps unit with contour mapping that shows the body of water you are on. Start out by looking for major breaks between depths. I like to start out by looking for the bigger depth breaks and then when getting to those areas, simply zoom in on that area you are on and try to find to find the sharpest points if any are there or humps that will show a difference as small as a one-foot contour in that area. Those are the areas you want to try first as the walleyes will chase bait most in those contour areas. What needs to be done next is exactly what part of the depth break are the walleyes going to mostly use throughout the day. Sometimes you do get

(Continued on Page 6)

#### **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.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First off hope everyone had a great Christmas and a New Year spending time with family and friends.

Our club had a great turnout for our annual Christmas potluck and awards ceremonies, it was nice to see and meet other members wives and loved ones.



We awarded our first ever LSCWA members achievement award to club member Billy Batty for going above and beyond to help out and promote our club. We also awarded our scholarship award and big fish from the annual summer kids outing.

The open division, Masters division big fish of the year, anglers of the year, and fall derby winners were also awarded as well, we interviewed the winners and recipients of each placing to get a in-depth idea of what they did all year to be able to accomplish this achievement.

As I write this here we are ramping up for the Novi fishing show!!! That's right it's a go this year and you all should have this newsletter by then. We as a club look forward to this every year where we can promote our club and our lake to its fullest extent. We all love seeing familiar faces and getting to go see our favorite companies to make sure we stock up on that special bait or gear.

As we start off a new year 2022 will be a GREAT year for our club lots of wonderful things coming down the pipeline from our board of directors, we will have great speakers and events and many more things coming. If you have any ideas that you think we could use or bring anything to our attention, please don't hesitate to come talk to myself or a board member.

Happy new year everyone Jeff VanTorre President LSCWA

Remember this is YOUR club be a part of it!!

MEMBERS:
DUES MUST BE CURRENT
TO FISH ALL DERBIES!

PLEASE SEE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

350 CURRENT MEMBERS

# EXTENDED SEASON BOATING

BY ROB BARNES



With open water and longer seasons comes the opportunity to use our boats longer into the season. In freezing or near freezing conditions I recommend pulling your trailers forward a touch above the water line and stopping to let them drip drain in an effort to reduce contributions to icing ramps. It also can't hurt to engage 4x4 when launching or loading your boat to give you extra grip when you may need it. Another thing to do in freezing conditions is to turn your ignition over for a few seconds for your main outboard and kicker motor to purge any remaining water from the water pump housing and internal hosing.

#### **Outboard Winterization**

When it's time to put things up for the winter modern outboards make winterization and preventative maintenance easier than ever. I chose to run Yamaha outboards on my boat because they are known for reliability. I enjoy doing my own maintenance. At season end I add fuel stabilizer to my fuel tank and fog my engine. The 250hp VMAX SHO is an EFI outboard and I do not need to spray fogging oil into each cylinder or into the air intake. Yamaha makes the process easy by making an EFI fogging oil which mixes with 2 gallons of fuel in a small fuel tank. All I have to do is disconnect my fuel line, connect it to the small tank with the fuel and fogging oil mix, place some water muffs on my lower unit, and run the outboard until I see smoke come from the exhaust. This is the same process I use for my carbureted T9.9 kicker; it eliminates the need for me to spray fogging oil and once the system is fogged I can disconnect the fuel line and burn all of the fuel out of the carb's fuel bowls. This takes away the opportunity for any ethanol treated fuel to gum up a motor's fuel system.

#### **Livewell and Bilge Systems**

My Starcraft STX 2050 has a livewell system which makes winterization easy. On the transom of my boat are several pump screens which can be removed by hand. Underneath this is a threaded portion which a short garden hose can be threaded onto. All I need to do is feed this hose into a jug of marine antifreeze and turn each pump switch on at the console. I then verify that the antifreeze has been pumped through hosing within the livewell. I will also pour a little antifreeze right where the dual bilge pump intakes are and run the bilge to ensure antifreeze runs through the system. Doing this reduces the likelihood of frozen lines or damaged pumps in my boat's systems.

### Wrapping it up

A little bit of preventive maintenance reduces the chances of having major issues associated with freezing. Maintaining our boats livewell & bilge systems is straightforward and outboard engines have never been easier to prepare for winter storage. A little bit of leg work in the late season will help your fishing boat keep you on the water for years to come. Lastly, if you do not feel comfortable winterizing your own boat be sure to contact your local dealer for service support. I use Wilson Marine when needed and I know I can count on them when a job is above my pay grade.

# **ICE SAFETY**

BY TIM MUIR

It won't be long now (hopefully). The hard water season will be here soon. First ice can be some of the best ice fishing of the winter. First ice can also be very dangerous. Extra caution needs to be used early in the season. Ice may not be the same thickness from one spot to the next.

#### NO FISH IS WORTH YOUR LIFE.

Check with one of the local bait shops in the area. They normally will have some info on ice conditions. Use that spud in front of you often. Don't go alone. Its bad enough to get in trouble out there or go thru but if you are alone it can be worse. Get a set of ice picks, Wear a life jacket, keep a dry set of clothes in a waterproof bag, have a throw rope, pull your gear on a sled to spread out the weight. Its small things like that that may save your life.

Be safe this winter and good luck. Hopefully Mother Nature will provide us with some decent fishable ice.

# ANOTHER GREAT REASON TO JOIN THE LSCWA

BY TIM MUIR



Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the largest state-based conservation organization in the nation. Since 1937, MUCC has been uniting citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage. Our strength lies in our numbers: More than 40,000 trappers, hunters, anglers and conservationists, and more than

200 affiliate clubs comprise Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

MUCC is most known for its longstanding and highly efficient policy record. Leading initiatives such as the Bottle Bill and Proposal G, MUCC relies on grassroots policy written by its members to direct staff in Lansing. One MUCC member voice has the ability to change the course of natural resources policy in Michigan. With three registered lobbyists on staff and a third-party lobbying firm working on MUCC's behalf, the organization is the most effective state-based conservation policy organization in the nation.

Twelve full-time, dedicated staff carry out the organization's mission within four distinct pillars: policy/advocacy, habitat, communications and education. MUCC operates the most robust public and private land field programs in the nation through On the Ground (OTG), On the Water (OTW) and the Michigan Wildlife Cooperatives program. The organization has educated and introduced more than 58,000 children to the outdoors since 1946 through hands-on programs at Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp and publishes TRACKS magazine, which aligns with Next Generation Science Standards and is used through-out Michigan school districts. And MUCC has published Michigan Out-of-Doors, Michigan's premium outdoor journal, since 1947.

Taken together, MUCC is conservation in action.

# HI, MY NAME IS NICOLE BENSON...

and I'd like to wish everyone a happy New Year, I'd like to share my experience in the LSCWA Fall Derby. It was four 24-hour events, ending with the weigh-ins at Anglers Point on Saturday at 3pm.

Starting off in September, the lake was very weedy, we marked lots of fish on the fish finder, and it was very tough to troll through the weeds. We set our lines and we got our one and only fish that morning, my husband Rich & father-in-law Dick Benson got skunked that day. My one walleye weighed 2.27 lbs, good enough for 10th place finish for 3 points. A Seyka perch Bandit was the lure the fish was caught on, Northwest of the dumping grounds.

In October, on Friday night, Rich & Dick fished night the before with Ray Wauters and only got a few. Saturday morning, I got four walleyes, Rich's side of the boat only caught bass. Once again, Seyka perch bandit. We fished in an area called the turnaround & near Homer's hole. My 3.78 lb. fish was good enough for a 3rd place finish for 9 points.

November, oh the gales of November! Rich and Dick went out on Friday and had really good luck, catching a bunch and keeping 10. Saturday was an entirely different day, strong winds out of south made for a really rough morning, it was the roughest I've been on the lake, at times the waves were over 4'. I managed one fish. We couldn't even tell it was on with it being so rough, but it was a nice one that went 4.32 lbs, good enough for fifth place and 7 points. A stock Bandit I've nicknamed "khaki pants" brought this one in (brown back khaki).

In December, the high winds the day before stirred up a lot of dirty water & weeds. At 2 o'clock we set out our lines. Ten minutes later we had our first walleye in the boat, a nice 3.5lb walleye on my favorite custom Bandit, Seyka perch. Then nothing for 2 hours, we needed to find better water and bigger fish! I had walleye fever and wanted to win this! We ended up south of the dumping grounds and Rich got one immediately, then a lull until dark. Then, a fishing frenzy... 11 walleye and 1 musky in about 40 minutes time. We barely got our lines reset before they went off again, at one time we had 2 walleve with lures in their mouths on the floor. 1 walleye in one net and a musky about 20lbs in the other. One of the fish flopping on the floor was my biggest walleye so far this year, she went 5.54lbs., winning 2nd place. I ended up with a total of 28 points, earning 2nd place in the 2021 LSCWA Fall Derby.

I'd like to congratulate Jeff VanTorre for his 1st place win with a total of 31 points and Josh O who finished 3rd with 27 points. It was a very exciting derby for me and loved the competition. Thank you to Anglers Point Marina for hosting each and every derby. I always love seeing Chris, Susu, Vicky and the puppies every time I'm there. Their suggestion of a Striker Ice suit for me as an early Christmas present made fishing much more comfortable and enjoyable for me.

In closing I want to thank all the guys in the LSCWA for their friendship and advice.

Nicole Benson

## **NOW IS THE TIME**

BY TIM MUIR

Now is the time to start preparations for the spring "soft water" fishing season. If you can get started and ahead of the game now, come spring the hectic, chaotic last minute frenzy of getting everything ready will no longer be.

Most of the things can be done now, in the living room in front of the TV with a beverage in hand. Organizing tackle, replacing hooks, adding the new ones acquired over the winter to the herd. One can never have enough crankbaits right? Collecting up all the jigs and soft plastics and returning them to their proper home.

I know for me my soft plastic bags look like a jailbreak. Same with jigs. Separating them now by color/size will only add to time spent fishing instead of sorting come April. Another thing that I do is when I get a new bag of soft plastics. I add some scent/attractant to the bag. This gives the bait a chance to have that smell sink into the plastic. This will hopefully keep that jig in the fish's mouth just long enough to set the hook. Make those crawlers harnesses. You will be happy you did in May once the bass invade the river and you are not up half the night tying them the night before your first lake trip of the season. Planer boards. Clips wear out. Screws get loosened.

Can't overlook maintance on your rods and reels. Fresh line, broken guides, gear lube, recalibrate your line counters. So much to do. Any one of these being neglected could be enough to prevent a trip to the taxidermist at worst or a fish fry. Take the time now it is well worth it.

Take care of you boat and its accessories too. Batteries need to be stored properly. Electronics in a warm place. If you are planning any boat repairs or upgrades and have



access to it...get-r-done. 2 seasons ago I neglected by batteries. First time out. Not 1 dead battery...3! Talk about a bummer. Took a day off work early April, first trip of the season. Get to the ramp.....nada. Strange thing though is the boat did start at home in the warm garage. I thought I was good. Lesson learned the hard way.

Remember all these things as you are walking around the ultimate fishing show and thinking to yourself as you are buying 20\$ worth of harness blades or a dozen custom crankbaits. Your success this summer starts now.

# **SPOT ON THE SPOT FOR WALLEYES** (Continued from Page 3)

lucky and land right on them but most of the time you have to put in a little bit of work for the big reward of putting a pile of walleyes on the ice in a hurry. Early in the morning you want to start out by working on the shallowest part of the point or depth break and work your way out a little deeper as the sun is coming up for the day. If you have a buddy on the ice with you a good way to achieve this as the morning goes is a method, I like to call leapfrog on the ice. Pick a spot and your partner will go down the break line deeper than you and you hop over him after about 20 min if you are not seeing anything. Keep doing this method until somebody lands on the walleyes. Once you have landed on them that's when you ask yourself why this spot more than the others? This is what I like to call SPOT ON THE SPOT. There is typically a reason why those walleyes are in that one spot whether it be a small rock pile, sand/muck to rock transition or a small patch of dead weeds that are laying on bottom. It could be as simple as a one-foot contour that comes to a sharp point and that's what the walleyes are using as their "highway" to chase bait all day. Once you find the reason why this small little area is better than all the others you fished in morning, that's what is called spot on the spot, and you will be more successful in achieving success on the ice in a short amount of time. In closing I would like to add that you should always use caution when using this method because to most great depth breaks, and points usually have a lot of ice heaves or pressure cracks in the area which is why they form because of all the breaks in the area. Always use extreme caution no matter what and use that spud bar at all times even if you think the ice is more than safe. Ice thickness can change overnight. Tight lines everyone and stay safe. See you all out on the ice very soon. Ice thickness can change overnight. Tight lines everyone and stay safe. See you all out on the ice very soon.









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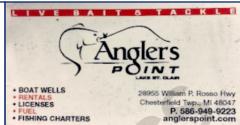
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