

<http://www.lakestclairwalleyeassociation.com><http://www.lscwa.net>**What Is Inside**

For this month we will be using this format for the club newsletter. Starting with the month of April we will resume our normal format and the sponsors of the club will once again be shown on the last two pages of the issue.

Please open and read this issue

March Meeting Seminars
New Fishing License Info
Summer Derby Info
Derby Rules Update
Club Web Site
Trade-A-Trip
Bowling Event Report
and Guest Articles

ANCHORING IN CANADA

This is a phone number to keep handy. If you want to enter Canadian waters and anchor the boat then you should call this number: 1-888-226-7277. Be sure to have

CALANDAR OF EVENTS

March 15 - Membership Meeting at the Eagles Hall.
March 15 - Walleye and Pike Fishing Ends on Inland Waters
March 22 - Board of Directors Meeting (Alternates requested to attend.)
March 31 - Fishing and Hunting Licenses Expire
April 19 - Membership Meeting at the Eagles Hall.
April 21, 22, 23 - First Club Derby of the Year.
April 26 - Board of Directors Meeting (Alternates requested to attend.)
April 29 - Walleye and Pike Season Opens on Inland Waters

Report All Poaching (800) 292-7800

The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association club phone number is (586) 778-0480.

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



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

WALLEYE WORLD

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF MICHIGAN'S WALLEYE FISHERY

BOWLING FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS

By Dave Wilemski

Our First Annual Bowling Fundraiser could NOT have gone better under the circumstances. We had 154 paid with 147 actually bowling on Saturday night 2/25.

Our Club made over Two Thousand Dollars for this event; I guess we will be doing it next year. We will be starting it way ahead and thus you can expect it to be even better than our first one.

Everyone had a great time especially Bob Brethauer and Dave Barc who each rolled a 300 game. Congratulations!

We gave out LSCWA 'Wooden Bowling Pin Trophies' for High Game Men & Women on all 3- games. The winners were: Jason Hess 298; Dave Barc 300; Bob Brethauer 300; Carrie Medwith 208, Laura Thomas 214 and one other lady (not written down.)

Lowest bowling score for first two games went to Kim Columbo with a 39. She received a LSCWA Bowling Pin Trophy and also a \$20.00 gift certificate from Premier Lanes. (It is believed that somehow Elmer's' glue had gotten on the bottoms of the pins on her bowling lanes and thus they were difficult to knock over.)

The Pizza provided by Premier Lanes was Fantastic from what I observed. No one complained and no one went hungry. Many bowlers commented to me "It was well worth the \$20 cost."

Prizes, prizes... boy did we have prizes. Over \$1,600.00 worth of prizes were given away, not including the cash game winnings of \$400.

Our (Non-Profit) Walleye Club purchased and gave away a Magnavox DVD, Microwave Oven, 5.8 GHz Phone won by Tony Kozlinski, and a 4-Qt. Crock Pot.

Also, we had donations by the following Great Establishments: Travis Restaurant of Chesterfield SE of 21 & Gratiot - (4) \$5 gift certificates won by Laura Cutting, Cassie Hinderliter, Joe Lane and Dave Hinderliter; Denny's of Roseville - (6) VIP cards won by Christina Kwiatkowski, Amanda Goolsby, Duane Green, Jen Champine, Tony Kozlinski and Al McGraw; Beacon Light Home Inspections- 586.292.6143, Postage Stamps, Bowling Pin Trophy art-work, \$190 worth of discounts on (6) Home Inspections won by David Weidnarja, Jason Hess, Sandy Gadewski, Sarah Pilarawski, Almond Goolsby, Raymond Moore. Dr. Tom Sloan, Dentist - (6) \$25 Gift Certificates won by Joy, Keith, John, Mark, Joe & Jason; TSC Tractor & Supply (33195, 23-mile Rd) donated a very nice 175-pc. Tool Set (worth \$53) won by Richard Koch. Thank you Dean of TSC; C.J's Pizza & Restaurant on Jefferson - Gift Certificate dinner for 2 won by Traci Terry; The Leather Depot 21 Mile at Gratiot donated a \$20 Gift Certificate won by Dave-C. (Nice Place- Sharron); One of the Big Prizes on the Card Drawing Table was "a 10-Week Liberty Weight

Loss Program" valued at \$189.00. Thanks Jesse at Medical Weight Loss Clinic (586.949.0351) 21 & Gratiot; Buddy's Pizza 8100 Old 13 Mile donated (5) \$10 Gift Certificates won by Annie Armstrong, Joe M. Fettue, Bryan-W., Shelby Brethauer and Diana Celeste; A great Place to Eat - 1The Grecian Table Family Restaurant at 23700 Harper, SCS donated (2) \$10 Gift Certificates won by Michell Barc and Scott Armstrong; Joe & Richard Gentz secured (4) T-Shirts and a Day Planner won by Lucky Participants of our Bowling Fundraiser. Kroger's on 23-mile Rd. in Chesterfield donated a \$15 Gift Certificate won by Kevin Strohbeck; Dave Champine donated a Disposal Unit & Hot Water Outlet; Yours Truly donated a special 'Dead Fish' Landing Net; Debra Fettue made two nice Theme Baskets for the Raffle. PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OUR SPONSORS.

Four of the best Prizes offered that night were ½ day Charter Fishing Trips donated by Jerry Fox Sr., Richard Koch, Gerald Jessome and Keith Krych. I estimated each as having a \$130 value; however, they are priceless. I did not record who won these 4- trips however I am sure we will hear all about it. (I hope the winners will each write an article about the experience.)

Our Lucky cash winners were: Jerry Ripley who hit \$100 on the Lucky Strike Ball run by Our President Jeff Regulski. Also, \$100 each was won by our three lucky 50/50 winners: Kelly Kuczewski, Jim Burgess and Sherry Drainer; Congratulations! Thank you again Richard and Joann Koch for handling the 50/50. You did a Great Job.

I would also like to thank the following for all your help: Our President Jeff Rugulski; Joe & Richard Gentz, Co-Chair Sarah Pularski; Theresa Shue who helped us out at the Ticket / Prize Table all night; Tony Kozlinski who gave up bowling (a 700 series) to help me guard & count the monies; Alex Vitek who helped edit some of my fundraiser fliers; Jim Burgess who stayed until 2:AM looking for the Canadian \$20 bill I thought I saw; Marilyn Krych who took pictures, tracked high game winners and did a lot of running back and forth. To my considerate wife Linda who let me slide on my normal household duties for the past two months while I worked on this Fundraiser, Thank You!

To all the members who sold a lot of additional tickets: Jeff Rugulski; Dave Champine; Dennis, Kevin and David Strohbeck who together accounted for 5-lanes. Joe Fettue who filled six (6) lanes. Bob Brethauer who filled two lanes. Also Thanks to the Guys and Gals from 'Gilberts'. If I missed anyone and I am sure I did (sorry) and A Big Thank You!

Last, but not least, I welcome all your comments, positive or negative during the March Meeting or by phone/email. I require your input before the next Staff Meeting (3/22) where we will jot down ideas for the 2nd Annual Bowling Fundraiser in 2007. I already have listed 6 changes of my own. (Like: Everyone to be pre-paid with lanes pre-assigned; No walk-ins). Yes it's possible!

FISH 7 ON

MINI-WORKSHOPS

The March meeting will be a real educational experience! To help us get ready for the upcoming season, members will conduct "Mini-workshops". They will be going on continuously during the break enabling you to check them all out.

- Alex Vitek: Basics on melting lead and making Jigs, Bottom Bouncers, Pencil, Handline, and other sinkers
- Jerry Fox: How to make Crawler Harnesses and all about Inline Trolling Board Modifications
- Tony Koslinski and Dave Wilemski: Discussing GPS Tips and how to make Stinger Hooks
- Steve Beasley: How to make Shanks for Handlining
- Keith Krych: The basics of Lure Customizing and how to get started in Powder Coat Painting Jigs

FISHING LICENSE & RULE BOOKLET

by Alex Vitek

Just a reminder that the 2005 fishing and hunting licenses will be expiring on March 31st. New fishing and hunting licenses will be needed on April 1st. They can be bought now at your favorite license dealer or they can be bought at the DNR web site but I have not experience in that.

Here is an interesting thing that we will have to remember about our new licenses. They will still be good for one year until March 31, 2007. But, the rule book that is now available will be good for TWO years or until March 31st of 2008.

There are several changes in the rules. Look for them on page 3 and they will be highlighted throughtout the booklet using red type.

One of the rules that some members will find interesting is the change that allows for the use of the "drop shot" technique in lakes. There are some restrictions on where else it is allowed so check the booklet.

DERBIES AND THE DERBY RULES

The summer season is coming faster than we know. Pretty soon it will be time to prepare for the LSCWA member's only summer month derbies.

All members in good standing are invited to take part in these fun events. They are held the weekend

following the membership meetings in April, May, June, July, and August. Fishing can start on Friday evening and the Walleye caught can be weighed-in on Sunday afternoon at the selected weigh-in site.

New members do not have to worry about competing against some of our experienced members. We have a Master's Division for members who have a history of placing in the regular derbies. This means that they end up fishing against other Master's Division members. There is no admission cost for the club derbies and everyone is fishing and competing for the glory.

In next month's newsletter the rules for the derby season will be printed. Members have voted on some changes. These changes had an effect on wording in other paragraphs so there is a lot of corrections and deletions that have to be made.

WALLEYE DONATIONS

The club will be needing donations of Walleye. We use the donated fish to provide fillets for our numerous club events at which we have a fish-fry.

Donations of Walleye for filleting will be taken at the summer derbies. If you have Walleye that you do not want to take back home then the donation will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way to helping out the club.

THE CLUB WEBSITE

To help make it easier for members and interested fishermen to find the club website we have added another URL. In addition to the usual web page address the new one of lscwa.net can also get to the club's main web page.

A reminder to all members. There is also a separate web page based Message Board. This is for members and all interested members to discuss fishing and outdoor topics. The Message Board can be accessed through a link from the club's main web page or by going directly to: <http://www.lakesclairwalleyeassociation.com/forums/>

All visitors can read the messages that have been left but registration is needed in order to post a message. Registration is free. Click on "Register" and then pick a user name and a password. You will then get confirmation message through your eMail account. We do not retain any eMail information.

As part of the new club Message Board there is a special section which is for members of the LSCWA. Non members cannot see it or even know that it is there. Members will have to register for the Message Board and they will then have to contact the club's Membership Secretary by using the "carpazoid" messages. Then the "Members Only" section will be shown.

Some important club information has appeared on the Message Board days before it would have become available in the newsletter or on the club hot-line. Also, there are some very up to the minute fishing reports for Walleye and other species of fish.

THE UPSIDE TO NO ICE FISHING

By Dave Wilemski

I have been taking my 18 month old Golden Retriever, 'Seger', to the Selfridge boat launch area this winter to practice retrieving a dummy rubber duck.

Many times there I noticed ice fishermen drive-in with shanties and/or ice fishing equipment in the back of their pickup trucks. They drive up to the ramps and eye ball the lack of good ice conditions. Then they drive off with a sad expression.

Observing this event makes me miss ice fishing even more. So, I have been looking for an upside, to help soften the hurt we are all feeling.

Forget the DNR reports or Detroit Free Press Sports page...I have my own theories. After all, I have lived on the lake for 27 years and fished it for 45 plus.

Deny 400-500 ice fishermen in each frozen bay, harvesting 15,000-25,000 Perch each weekend day. That is a lot of Perch not harvested this winter.

I believe that the schools of Yellow Perch will increase in size and quantity this spring. This can only help the Walleye in our Lake. Maybe we will see the big schools of Walleye moving further North into other bays of Lake St. Clair rather than just in front of Metro Beach.

Wait and see!

NEW SEASON RESOLUTION

It is a little late to call it a New Year's Resolution so we can just say it is for the new fishing season.

Take the opportunity to start a fishing log. It does not have to be a complicated process. Just make a few notes on the calendar each time you go fishing. Write in the amount of time spent fishing and what was

caught. Include a few notes on the weather, lures or bait, and time of day or night.

Include the water temperature even if it is just the reading from the Coast Guard Station on Belle Isle. When you start to make notes for the second year the patterns will emerge.

WE COULD DO BETTER

By Dave Wilemski

The Bowling Fundraiser I have been working on with a few of our dedicated Board members is going to be very nice for all those who participate. Even though we did not get a three month head start as we would have liked to, it will be fun and we will have a lot of great prizes to win.

The problem that I see is a lack of participation for the prize gathering committee. Reality: I and three others visited many small businesses and got turned down for a gift contribution 70% of the time because most of them do not know us. We spent a lot of time on this endeavor.

Best case scenario: 15 or more members in our club would stop by at, say, five small businesses each that they frequent. I would bet we would get a prize donation (or gift certificate) from 2 or 3 out of each five. That would equate to maybe 35 - 40 prizes for very little effort on any one member's part.

My guess is that most club members do not come forward to help because they are worried about getting called upon many more times. Whatever?! We would only call upon this group once per year for the bowling fundraiser. Besides, it is not nice to pester a small business owner more than once a year. Maybe next year will be easier. FISH 7 ON

In Memory

On March 7th we lost a long time member and good friend, Conrad Piebiak. For many years Conrad was the club's printer and helped the Board of Directors and the committees with their many projects often donating his printing services and time. He was very supportive of our efforts on behalf of the children, both in and outside of the club.

Conrad served on the Lake Shore Public Schools Board of Education for 13 years and he served with the Army in

PREPARE TO BE "LUCKY"

By Keith Krych

Is luck a part of walleye fishing? Oh sure, we've all heard the stories of the first-timer going out with a borrowed rod and reel spooled with two year old line and "lucking" into a ten pounder. That could be viewed as pure luck. But what about that guy in our fishing club that inevitably ends up every year walking away with the majority of the awards? Or that group of anglers that consistently make the Masters again and again ... or even the anglers that just always seem to do well at finding and catching fish on the lake year in and year out - are they just "Lucky"? It all depends on your definition of luck. We've heard luck defined as "a result occurring following exhausted effort", and "preparation meeting opportunity". So if you want to become a "luckier" angler this upcoming season, perhaps a bit of "exhausted effort" and "preparation" is on order.

Preparing to be a "luckier" walleye angler can be a time consuming, yet very enjoyable process. Tackle organization is one of the key steps to being a well prepared walleye angler. By now it's probably been several weeks (maybe even a couple months) since you last opened up the old walleye tackle box. After a long and fruitful season of fishing trips, chances are it doesn't look nearly as well organized as it did last spring. That makes it a good place to start your preparation for the upcoming season.

If you're like me, your crankbait boxes are in need of some serious attention. Sorting the baits according to style, and color will insure you'll quickly be able to find the right lure when the time comes. As you sort, be sure to check the hooks. If they are showing signs of rust and/or wear, now's the perfect time to change them out. All you need is a pair of split-ring pliers and an assortment of replacement hooks.

Don't skimp on the hooks either ... remember, this is the part of the lure that either hooks the fish, or doesn't. If you've ever lost a big fish at the side of the boat, you know the feeling a bargain hook can cause. If you want to try something different, try the new Red colored hooks that are on the market. They just may get you a few extra bites this year.

Every well-prepared walleye angler should have a supply of spinners in his arsenal. Since most of these are tied on monofilament line, be sure to check them carefully for any signs of wear. A good policy when it comes to these is if it's out of the original package, it probably needs to be replaced. Spinners can be stripped and the components salvaged to tie new ones, but it's usually a good idea to tie those with new hooks

If you do tie a lot of your own spinners, be sure you have a good supply of blades on hand. Popular shapes are Colorado, Indiana, Chopper and Hatchet, they are available in all sizes at the bait shops and on the internet

As long as you're checking out the live bait gear, you'll want to be sure you have plenty of weights and bottom bouncers. The typical walleye angler will carry a lot of lead around in the form of everything from split-shots to Snap Weights. Bottom Bouncers are very versatile, and have become the walleye angler's "go-to" weighting system for most livebait presentations. Don't forget the other necessary terminal tackle either, like quality swivels, snaps, and beads.

One part of the walleye angler's arsenal that often gets over looked is the live bait itself. If you want to be better prepared for the upcoming season, you need to make sure you properly store and maintain your bait too. There are many lines of live bait management products on the market from aerated bait buckets to long-term storage systems for nightcrawlers that makes bait care simple. Whether you're storing bait for weeks at a time, or just over the weekend, keeping your bait well and lively is critical to success.

Taking a little time for some light maintenance on your rods and reels is a good thing to take care of now too. Strip last season's fishing line off your reels, clean the dust and grime off them, and put a few drops of lubricating oil on the moving parts. Loosening the drag on your reels while they're not in use will also help them to last longer and serve you well in the seasons to come.

One more thing you might want to do to prepare for the upcoming season is to upgrade your electronics. New advancements in sonar and GPS technology seem to come out every year. Maybe you're ready to move to a color display unit, or just one that has more power and resolution. Even if you're not in the market for a new unit, there may be software upgrades available for your current electronics. If you run a Lowrance unit for instance, you can go to their website, www.lowrance.com and look under "Free Product Software Updates". Downloading an update only takes a few minutes and may be just what you'll need to be better prepared to find and catch more walleyes.

As you look forward to the upcoming walleye fishing season, remember ... luck may give you one great fishing trip a year. But if you want great fishing all season long, don't just hope to be lucky, prepare to be lucky. That way when the opportunity comes along to have a successful day on the water, you'll have a lot more than luck on your side

TRADE-A-TRIP

by Ray Kalisz

At our last membership meeting we had 11 members who said that they could take out 1 or 2 of the visiting Battle Creek Steelheaders. The Steelheaders will be here on the weekend of April 28th, 29th, and 30th.

I will not be able to attend our LSCWA meeting on March 15th. I will be at the meeting of the Battle Creek Steelheaders to promote the fishing in our area.

If any other members of the LSCWA can help out by taking one or two of the visiting fishermen onto the water then please sign up at the meeting. See our club president or vice-president.

3 Digit Lotto

If you have tickets please remember to return them or the money and stubs to Marilyn at the membership meeting this month.

The tickets for the next drawing might be ready in time for the next meeting. If you are able to sell even just a couple it would go a long way towards helping the club.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE TASK FORCE

from the MUCC Staff

MUCC was recently appointed as a member of a Hunting and Fishing License Fee Task Force. The first meeting of the task force was held at MUCC headquarters on Monday January 31. The purpose of the committee is to recommend to the Natural Resources Commission a means to address the 30 million structural deficit that will occur in the Game and Fish Fund starting in 2007. It is expected that an increase in hunting and fishing licenses will need to occur in order to address the deficit. We will provide additional information regarding this important topic in the coming months.

DNR OFFERS HUNTER EDUCATION ONLINE

from the MUCC Staff

First-time hunters now can use the Internet to complete a part of their hunter education course. The online course can be found on the DNR's new Hunter Education Web Page at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Students who successfully complete the online course will be issued a pre-certification exam certificate which they will provide to a certified hunter education instructor in order to take the field or skills portion of the class. At the end of this one-day session, all students must take and pass a proctored exam to earn their hunter safety certificate.

THE CHANNEL CAT

(People who have visited the DNR Fisheries office at the end of South River Road have probably noticed their research vessel docked in the Clinton River behind the building. The article and photo from the Michigan DNR web site.)

The research vessel Channel Cat is a steel-hulled fish tug designed for a trap net fishery operation, similar to the Lake Erie trap net tugs. She was built for the DNR in 1968 by the Maybee Boat Company of Point Place, Ohio. Since that time, the Channel Cat has served as a work platform for Great Lakes fisheries research. The Channel Cat's home port is the MDNR's Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station located at the mouth of the Clinton River on Lake St. Clair.

As originally constructed, the Channel Cat was 36 feet long. In 1969, the vessel was lengthened 10 feet at the midsection. The current vessel length is 46 feet with a 13-ft beam and a gross weight of 24 tons. She is powered by twin 210 hp 6V 53 Detroit Allison diesel engines. The Channel Cat has a maximum speed of 13 knots and a cruising speed of 10 knots. Twin fuel tanks carry a total of 370 gallons of diesel fuel. Fuel consumption averages 4-6 gallons per hour. The vessel is equipped with hydraulics for operating a trawl winch. Instrumentation includes GPS, Loran C & magnetic navigation, radar, sonar, autopilot, EPIRB, marine band radio, and cell-phone communications. Recent upgrades to the vessel have included rebuilt engines (1995), hull repairs and repainting (2001), and complete rewiring (2003).

The R/V Channel Cat conducts fish sampling on the waters of Lake Erie, the St. Clair/Detroit River system, and Saginaw Bay. The vessel's operational season typically runs from late March through early November. Fish sampling gear deployed from the vessel include gill nets, trap nets, trawls, and set lines. The standard crew includes 2 boat captains, a biologist,

technician and fisheries assistant. Vessel operational costs per day of sampling are estimated at

approximately \$2000.

