

# THUNDER BAY WALLEYE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

**January 2011**

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

### **Officers**

President Jim Leeseberg  
Vice President Dave Birmingham  
Finance/Recording Secretary Dennis Burns

### **Board of Directors**

Bill O'Neil  
Richard Hubert  
Eric MacKenzie  
Kevin Cosbitt

## Club Activities/News

### James Farm Pond

There is a "possibility" we may be able to run the James Farm Pond this coming spring. Due to retirements affecting the DNR, the Walleye Club would have to be willing to pick up some of the slack. The DNR would be unable to send a crew from Gaylord a couple times a week to feed the fish. We would need bodies to feed, check water levels, etc... DNR would still do the planting, harvesting, and make occasional spot checks. The club needs to decide if this is still something we want to be part of, and are willing to participate in. A DNR representative may be present at the February meeting to give us more information.

## **TBWC RAFFLE**

5,000 TBWC Raffle tickets are printed and have been available. If you can make the January meeting, please take as many as you think you can sell. This was a great fundraiser for the club last year, and with more and better prizes it could be even better this year if we work at it a little bit. If you are unable to make the meeting, call Denny Burns 989 354 2419 to make arrangements to get yours. This year there are 6 prizes:

|                 |                                | Value    |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Vexilar FL20 Fish Finder       | \$519.00 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Frabill Fish Shanty            | \$399.00 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Jiffy 9" Ice Auger             | \$399.00 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Otter Ice Fishing Sled W/hitch | \$150.00 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Eastman Ice Cube 2 person      | \$150.00 |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Vexilar Hand Held Sonar        | \$140.00 |

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# *Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament*

The Date Has Been Set! The Third Annual Tournament will be held Saturday February 19th, 2011

Only 1000 tickets will be sold!

New! 50/50 Raffle during Tournament!

First Fish Weighed in Wins Prize!

This unique tournament is detailed in the rules section but here's a quick introduction.

- Only 1000 tickets sold
- Over 1250 predrilled holes in the tournament area- first come first serve.
- No shelters allowed
- Prizes determined by fish weight and then by time registered in the event of a tie. ***Prizes are non-species specific, any open species of fish may be registered.***

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## Help Needed

As in the past couple of years, the club has done our part in this event by drilling the holes the day before, which this year will be Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. All able bodies and working power augers are welcomed. With enough of us participating, “The Drilling Event” is usually completed in short order once the holes are laid out. Don’t miss out on the fun!

Search for “The Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament” on the web for info on prizes etc.

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*Congratulations to Romeo Bourdage on his big Hubbard Lake, Northern. The fish reportedly weighed 20 pounds and was caught on 6lb test while jigging for walleye. NICE FISH!!!!!!*



## Notice: Tournament Scheduling Meeting

We will be holding the TBWC summer fishing tournament scheduling meeting after the February 9th meeting. If you wish to have any input or suggestions, please try to attend or if you can't make it email Denny Burns at [jackieodennyb@frontier.com](mailto:jackieodennyb@frontier.com)

There seems to be a huge difference in the participation rate between some of the tournaments. Do we want to continue to have some of tournaments that only draw four or five boats? What influences the decisions to fish or not fish particular tournaments? Is it the locations, quality of the fishery, other obligations, \$\$\$\$ , start / end times etc.... What, if anything can we do to improve the schedule.

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### “Fish Babble”

You can learn so much more by working hard to figure out a “Tough Bite” or fishing in adverse conditions than you can when you only fish when the bite is “On”. Almost anybody can catch a bunch of fish when the fishing is great, but it's through gutting it out, being flexible and experimenting during the tough bites that you become a better informed and ultimately more successful fisherman. There is a great temptation to bail out on a tournament, or slow day of fishing if you don't have a bite going, I've seen many people do it, and many times wanted to do it myself, but I can't even count the times I've figured out the fish during those days, and turned a slow day into a great day. Sometimes it's a combination of persistence and patience that turns things around for you tournament or not.

Here is a good non- tournament example of this from 2010; two days after that massive June cold front had dropped the water temps around 10 degrees, the fishing went from some of the best we'd ever seen into some of the worst. Eric Mackenzie and I had nothing better to do than to spend an afternoon bouncing around on the bay. We knew that most of the warm water was gone, so we ventured out to North Point in hopes that the NNW winds would roll some of the warmer water out of the shallows and around the point. A good plan, but it didn't pan out. It was slightly warmer, but nasty rough when we got around the corner. We went to plan B and shot across the bay and checking some areas off Sulfur. Still, there were no fish and no warm water. On hunch we went way up into 6 to 8 feet of water a ways south of Partridge point thinking there may be some small pockets of water that had not yet been blown all the way out. We ended up finding a small 200-300 yard stretch of water that was 8 degrees warmer than anything we had found, and we found the fish **BIG TIME!**, taking a ten fish limit in 2 very short passes. It took three or four hours, but we found them! Upon our return to the harbor, the DNR fish tech told us we had brought in the **only** fish she had seen all day. Too bad it wasn't a tournament! It's just one example of how being persistent can pay off.

By keeping a log of what you've done, you can take into account the effects of wind direction/duration, water temps, wave action, or any other bits of info that you feel may be important. In many cases this will enable you to make better sense of, or even figure out bite patterns, or other things that influence the fish to do what they do.

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 379-4614, so he can make it worthwhile to put orders together. It is really not a cost saver to order one jacket at a time. If you plan on getting one, call ahead, so he can plan for orders.

Steve will have hats, t-shirts, TBWC decals etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase.

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Search [tbwalleye.com](http://tbwalleye.com) for the latest tournament results, newsletters, and blog. Todd has posted the up to date tournament results including weights, and points earned.

\*\*\*\*- Please let Erich (I've taken over the newsletter for Romeo for a while) know the events you are involved with by calling 595-3295 or 464-5623 or email me at [walleynyper@hotmail.com](mailto:walleynyper@hotmail.com) We'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments -\*\*\*\*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Dave Dillon      Spruce**

The club received a nice thank you note from the St Bernard Friendship Room, it reads,

Thanks for all you do get the fresh local fish to the friendship room. Local fish is a premium dish in our meal preparations. We very much appreciate the labor you donate to make our job easier and am especially thankful for your contribution to fighting hunger in our community.

Respectfully  
Randy MacAulay Director

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 pm

- **ACC Besser Tech Room** - Room 112 in the BTC

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

**(Please note: If the college is closed due to weather conditions the meeting will be rescheduled)**

## AGENDA:

- New Business
  - Banquet Plans
  - Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament
  - TBWC Ice fishing Raffle
  - 2011 TBWC Tournament Schedule
  - Hubbard Lake Ice Fishing Tournament February 27<sup>th</sup>?
  - **ADDRESS, EMAIL, OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES?  
PLEASE CALL DENNY BURNS @ 989-354-2419 ANYTIME AND**

**LEAVE A MESSAGE OR EMAIL AT  
JACKIEODENNYB@FRONTIER.COM**

**Memberships can be mail to PO Box 812 or paid at the monthly meeting for the 2011 year.**

**Those who get the newsletter by mail have their membership year on the front of the envelope and those who receive the newsletter by email can note their membership year by the date after their name in the to section of the email.**