

Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

MARCH 2015

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers

President
Vice President
Finance/Recording Secretary

Jim Leeseberg
Dave Birmingham
Dennis Burns

Board of Directors

Bill O'Neil
Richard Hubert
Eric MacKenzie
Kevin Cosbitt

WHEN WILL IT END

Seem like it's starting to end with temps on the upswing. We may see 30's this weekend and 40's at the start next week. Start getting your tackle ready for soft water fishing. Respool reels, check hooks on crawler harnesses and hard body baits, rod guides etc. Don't forget your landing net. Make sure there are no holes. You wouldn't want to put a big one thru the net only to watch it swim away. It's a little too soon to check boat batteries, motor, lights, trailer bearings etc. but don't forget to do it. You may avoid something happening that could cost you some cash, time, distress etc. Our first tourney is on the T Bay River and Bay Sunday April 26th if the ice is gone by then.

TOURNAMENTS

REEL FUN SATURDAY FEB 14TH

WHAT A DAY ON THE ICE

Friday the 13th hole drilling day was cold and windy. Jim Leeseberg and crew laid out and drilled 1,200 holes with about 9 or 10 people coming out to help. The original people who were going to put up a couple of tents backed out when they found out about the 25 to 35 mi/hr. wind with gusts over 40 forecasted for Saturday so the Reel Fun Tourney Committee managed to get a Gaylord Company to do the honors. A real nice 30 by 60 foot or so was on the ice by Friday evening. The area around the tent location was plowed as well as the ice road from the launch to the tent. Good idea.

My sister took this photo with her phone Friday eveing.

Photo looks a little fuzzy cuz the wind already winding up for Saturday.



When I arrived about 8am Saturday the wind was already at 25 to 35, gusts over 40 and wind chills 25 to 35 below or more and actual temps below 0. Managed to get all the weigh-in stuff in the trailer Travis Niedbala loaned to us to use. Rob Frantz managed to back up the trailer to the right corner of the tent with the back of the trailer facing an opening in the corner side curtain so we could weigh-in from inside the tent. I wasn't sure how the TBWC scale was going to work in this extreme cold especially on 4 AAA batteries so Jim had a generator on sight which worked very well after some time to get it started. The scale seemed to work OK, it was our mitts and stuff that froze up which made it hard to hold onto stuff.

What was amazing was the fact that some contestants had already showed up and were waiting for 9AM to get to their holes of choice. Dave Birmingham and crew were at the entrance to the fishing area checking everyone out before entry into the fishing area. All in all about 200 people (guys and gals) fished until 3PM. Hot cocoa was a hot item all day. Beer was almost impossible to drink....froze solid in about 2 to 3 minutes. Tried to keeping it in a cooler to keep in warmer...didn't work.

Congratulations go to Randy Kroll who won the 2015 1st Place a 350 John Deere Gator with a 0.68# Perch!! Prizes are not necessarily in order of value. As you can see the 30th place by weight was a **Clam Nanook Montana Ice Shanty** and the 100 fish weighed was a 42" TV.

TBWC raffle winners are 1 st place a Vexilar FL-18 to Dan Schackmann	Alpena
2 nd place a 8" Pro 4 Lite Propane Auger to Matt Hunter	Alpena
3 rd place a Quick Flip 2 Shanty to Spencer Weinkauff	Alpena
4 th place a Vexilar Handheld LPS-1 Sonar to Robert Sumbera	Owosso
5 th place a Jet Sled XL with Hitch to Rob Lard	Alpena

The club did manage a small profit on ticket sales.

Important-Calling all Augers

Thank you all club members who endured these hostile 2 days. The success we had was because of you.

Listed are club members and nonmembers who helped Friday with the layout and hole drilling.

We are asking *all listed* to review the names and let us know if we missed anyone that was there.

Call Denny Burns at 989 354 2419 or email at jackieodennyb@frontier.com
If we missed anyone. Thank you.

Current members are:
Your memberships have been updated.

Dave Birmingham, Jim Engle, Rob Frantz, Al Hess, Matt Hunter, James Leeseberg,
Eric Mackenzie, Rono Massetti, Greg Trelfa.

NON members are:
Eligible for TBWC membership.

Jim Spens, Matt Kindt, Brian Popour, Greg Walker, Nick Schellie, Matt Klimczak,
Kent Frantz, Josh Frantz, Ken Kraus, Howard Spigelmyre.

The Club will be getting with the nonmembers for their information needed for membership.

Article taken from an Alpena News insert for the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament 2015

“The Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament has been bringing fun and excitement to the Alpena area for seven years now. Since the tournament’s inception, the crew that runs the tournament has had a great deal of support from the community, but one group has gone above and beyond every year.

Alpena’s Thunder Bay Walleye Club has been instrumental in the annual success of the tournament. Every year these men generously donate their time and resources to ensure that the participants’ have a fun and fair afternoon of fishing. Many of the club members would like to fish the tournament, but instead they put away their jugs and tip-ups for the day and spend it working. They do everything from drilling the 1200 holes the night before the tournament and laying out the tournament area to weighing in and recording the fish caught. Without them and their expertise our volunteers would be lost.

Walleye Club President, Jim Leeseberg says they like to support any endeavors that encourage the community’s youth to participate in outdoor activities. “The Thunder Bay Walleye Club would like to see the River Center becomes viable education opportunity for Alpena’s youth. We want to see them get outdoors and let them interact with the world more than video games and television.”

The Thunder Bay Walleye Club was initially formed so the area’s walleye fishermen could use each other’s knowledge and skills in order to become better fishermen themselves. Their other main goal was to preserve the walleye fishing in Northeast Michigan, not only to maintain a healthy fish supply, but also by educating our youth. The club quickly took off and the members soon found that they were able to achieve all of those goals while also helping out our community.

Every year the club runs about 10 tournaments. They also help raise funds so they are able to fix docks and launches around the community. The group has replace and maintained the dock at the fairgrounds, and the also installed a new dock at the 7 mile dam on the Thunder Bay River.

In addition to maintaining docks for fishermen, the club also helps support their catches. The club works closely with our local DNR to help run a walleye pond and does all of the fingerling netting for the Michigan DNR. When it comes time for the DNR to set their surveying nets on Lake Huron, the club steps up and agrees to clean and process all of the fish for them as long as they are allowed to donate the fish to our local soup kitchen.

The club also provides fishing opportunities for our community members as well. They are involved in multiple kids fishing and educational events at the Lafarge Paxton Quarry, and also will be doing a fishing tournament for veterans this year. Leeseberg said that the club members will be willing to take out veterans who want to fish the tournament, but may not have their own resources.”

Leeseberg at 989 657 1393, leave a message if needed, so we know who and how many we can expect.

HUBBARD LAKE FEBRUARY 22nd

Saturday was a great prefishing day, light wind, sunny and relatively warm, lotsa people out prefishing the south end. Sunday however was very cold and windy, not great fishing but 62 people did show. Cody Franklin scored the largest walleye at 24-1/2” and Ernie Roznowski the largest perch at 14-1/2”. Hours may change next year to start at 6:30 AM to 7 PM (must be at the south end launch no later than 7PM.)

Both collected about \$300 each for their efforts.

FISHING REPORTS

From Eric Mackenzie

Caught some perch and walleye on grand lake fishing the rocks piles. Was in 10-16 foot of water.

Only Fishing Report Submitted. Not surprising considering weather conditions.

SUMMER FISHING TO START SOON

AHHHHHH Darn!#%*&)+, that musta hurt!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THIS BIG ONE DIDN'T GET AWAY BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS WHAT CREW WAS FISHING FOR!!



February meeting notes

Meeting called to order 7:17
Jim Leeseberg presided.

Financials were read.

Carl Hatala gave another update on the TBWC Veterans Fishing Tournament scheduled for June 28th on the Bay with an alternate of Hubbard Lake if needed Alpena Alcona donated \$744.52 towards this event and more to come.

Carl is working with the Chamber to build a letter to send out for the Brown Trout. Carl has about 20 boats for the tourney at this time.

Some discussion on the 2015 BT Festival. Glen Klimczak gave us an update.

Jim Leeseberg still needs help with hole drilling Friday and Saturday morning setup for the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tourney. Glen Klimczak will be the main ticket seller Saturday.

Check the TBWC tourney schedule and note the rule changes. If you have questions, ask before tourneys start.

Glen gave an update on Brown Trout and looks like nothing has changed. BT is working on a bass tourney to run the same day(s) as the walleye tourney.

February meeting notes continued

Carl Hatala is working on putting a booth up at the Grand Rapids EXPO March 19th thru 22nd .Do we want to go-in on sharing the cost of a spot at the EXPO. Glen Klimczak moved to pay up to \$300, seconded by Ed Retherford. Motion carried.

Club banquet is Friday March 21st at the Alpena Sportsmen's Club.

Ed Retherford said the tribal negotiations will start soon.

Ed said perch populations are down on Saginaw Bay and there may be walleye catch and size changes for the bay. Lake trout changes may be down the road as well.

Ed the cormorant budget was going to be cut but big opposition arose.

Drawing for the Reel Fun Hole. Ron Schroeder declined, Glen Klimczak declined and the third draw was Mark Haugerud who gladly accepted but I think was a no show on Sunday.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:30

Brown Trout

What is the club position on the two day BT walleye tourney????

CLUB MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID NOW.

Single person membership is \$15.00 per year. Family membership is \$25.00 includes all persons living in your household.

If you don't know if your memberships are due contact Denny Burns at 989 354 2419 or see me at a meeting.

Email members have the membership year after their last name on emails sent by Denny Burns including the newsletter.

Regular mailed member's membership year is on the envelope.

Make checks out to TBWC.

TBWC THINGS GOING ON

BANQUET IS SATURDAY MARCH 21ST 2015 AT THE ALPENA SPORTSMENS CLUB

Bird House building @ Alpena Sportsmen's Club March 28th 1 to 4pm

Snacks and Drinks provided----No Cost

Bring your kids, grandkids any kids

Hosted by Alpena Longbeards, TBWC, and the Sportsmen's Club

KIDS FISHING CLINIC & DERBY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20TH AT LAFARGE PAXTON QUARRY ON M-32

Annual Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 21st, 2015

Alpena Sportsman's Club

Agenda

Doors open at 4:30
Setups will be provided
BYOB
Games/Appetizers 5:00 - 7:00
Dinner at 7:00
Awards to follow dinner

Door Prizes!

Games! (for kids too)

Raffles!

Women's Baskets!

Dinner

By

Sherrie O'Brien

Country Apple Catering is certified by the State of Michigan

Hors D'oeuvres (Veggie Tray with crab dip), Dinner, Baked Chicken, Homemade Swedish Meatballs, Kielbasa with Sauerkraut, Real Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Buttered Corn, Glazed Carrots, Green Bean Almandine, Hot Rolls, Salad, and Desserts.

Dinner is \$15.00 per person at the door. 12 and under are free.

***Please RSVP by Monday, March 16th, your name and how many adults, **12 and under** will attend to Dennis Burns at 989 354-2419 and leave a message or email to jackieodennyb@frontier.com. You do not have to be a member to participate. Please note that we will have to have an accurate # when you RSVP. We will not be able to accept ANY last minute attendees at the door for dinner. **From time to time there is a cancelation so if you forgot to RSVP by Monday March 16th contact Denny to see if we can accommodate you.**

HELP US

TAKE A FEW MINUTES

We need info for the Newsletter!

Please consider contributing to the newsletter! Do you have a fishing or hunting story **OR ANY STORY** that is worthy of sharing? Do you have any fantastic pictures to share? Do you have an awesome recipe that you are willing to share? It doesn't necessarily have to be about fish. It would certainly make the newsletter more interesting. If you have something you'd like to share please send it to Erich Carlson's e-mail: walleynyper@hotmail.com. I'll be sure it gets in! The author can remain anonymous if you so desire, just indicate your preference when submitting something to Erich Carlson.

Electric Motor, Canvas, and Downrigger Repair

If you are in need of work on your Minnkota, need canvas work, or your Cannon Downriggers Serviced get ahold of Brad Valley @ Valley's Dockside Canvas

Services and repairs all Minnkota products including Cannon Downriggers. 989-464-1191

Looking for upgrades, repairs, and now fall winter WORK? Call the Boat keeper!

Most of you already know that TBWC member Greg Trelfa is a great mechanic. Why order from the big stores when Greg now has access to a full line of marine parts and accessories for all the major brands like Johnson, Evenrude, Mercury, Yamaha and more! He can also supply you with the latest in electronics from Lowrance and Hummingbird, and does professional high end installations as well. His kind of personal service is hard to come by, so if you are looking to upgrade some electronics or need some repairs or maintenance done and want it done right at very competitive prices, give Greg a call @ 595-3149.

NEW

Boat & RV Fiberglass repair-- Mid Michigan Fiberglass Inc. Owner Steve Schnettler, 1809 27th St. Bay City Michigan 989-895-7000 www.midmichiganfiberglass.com Factory Authorized.

FOR SALE

Strikemaster Mag 2000 gas Ice Auger - like new, only used about 5 times - haven't used it in about 4 years due to health issues. Auger, blade cover and Cabela's travel bag - \$300. I did start this to make sure it still ran last year - fired up after about 5 pulls after sitting for 3 years.

Summit Titan treestand (climber) - brand new, still in the box. Ordered new in 2011, has never been opened. Bottom of box is a little rough from sitting for 3+ years - \$200
Call Mike Mc Court 358-1595

1996 Sea Nymph deep V with a 40 horse electric start and electric tilt trim tiller Johnson motor. It has fish on rod holders and a new Lowrance graph. Boat also has a new 45 pound 24 volt bow mount. Asking \$4750.

Also have a 2008 mercury four stroke 9.9 long shaft tiller motor. Less than 30 hours on it. Asking \$1700.
Call Eric MacKenzie boomer2410@hotmail.com or 989 657 0079.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday March 11th, 7pm 2015

NEW MEETING ROOM 126

ACC Besser Tech Center (Room -126) it's the large room to the *RIGHT* as you go in the front entrance in the BTC on the north side of Johnson St.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.
(Please note: If the college is closed due to weather conditions the meeting will be rescheduled or cancelled)

Agenda:

Club Tourneys

TBWC Veterans Fishing Tourney

Club Banquet March 21st

Reel Fun Tourney

Brown Trout

Kids Fishing Derby