

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

April 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

## IT'S ENDING & WE START FISHING

It's been a long winter, and while some of our favorite waters are starting to open up, the majority of the inland lakes are a long way from ice out. There are a few guys that have ants in their pants and are getting out on Thunder Bay, and actually catching a few fish, but for the majority of us, there are still a few weeks of down time. Although they are about to open up, Lake Erie and the Detroit River still have ice floating around and coming down. If you haven't already been getting your boat in order, now is the time to go over your rig, and make sure everything is in it, organized, is in working order, and is up to date. Make yourself a checklist of things to do before you hit the water. Mental lists don't work! I've tried them.

Here are a few easy things to check: If you'll be fishing the out of Alpena, make sure you pick up a city launch pass. Check and make sure your boat registration sticker is up to date, and on the boat. Are your flares up to date, we all know the Coast Guard likes to stop and say hello from time to time, and it's something that is easy to let expire. Fire extinguisher? Throwable? Are your life jackets in the boat? How about your batteries? Are they all in good working order? Nothing is more disappointing than getting excited for that first trip of the season, launching your boat, and finding out your batteries are DOA. Electronics and radios should be checked out as well.

Now for tackle preparations! If you are like a lot of us, you've probably loaded up on some of the latest and greatest "hot" baits. Go through all your tackle add your new baits into the mix, and make sure they're organized. If you have enough baits, color coding them by boxes is a great way to organize them so you don't have to "search" too hard for that one lure you are looking for. Replacing hooks is a great idea, and certainly helps put more fish in the boat. Going through some tackle the other day, I noticed some baits that were "absolutely mangled" and certainly candidates for a hook replacement. Check your rods and reels over. Oil up your reels. Check the eyelets on your rods A (Q-tip) works great for this. If you haven't done so in the last year, re-spool and re-calibrate your line counter reels. Check your planer boards out! Are they all in good working order?

These are just a few of the many things that need to be done, and while they can be done at any time of the year, why not take a couple of rainy spring days and really get ready to fish?

Our first tourney is on the T Bay River and Bay Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. In past years there has been a very good catch jigging between the bridge and the bay with quality walleye put into your boat. If they are not in the river try the mouth to the first buoy or anywhere on the bay. Yes the bay is included in the first tourney of the year. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

**TOURNAMENTS**  
**Schedule and new rules for 2015**  
**2015**  
**TBWC Club Fishing Tournaments**

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 Thunder Bay River/Lk. Huron – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun April 26 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*2 Hubbard Lake – Launch DNR East Bay	Sat May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>6PM – 2AM</b>
3 Saginaw Bay - Launch AuGres DNR	Sun May 17 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*4 Long Lake - Launch Long Lake Park	Sun May 31 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
5 “Nite – Eyes” – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor ( <b>Public</b> )	Fri & Sat June 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6PM – 1AM</b>
6 Mullet Lake – Launch DNR North End	Sun June 21 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
TBWC Veterans Tournament – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun June 28 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – <b>1PM</b>
7 Thunder Bay – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun July 12 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
MI. Brown Trout Walleye Tournament – Launch Alp. Boat Harbor	Sat & Sun July 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	6AM – 3PM
8 Rockport –Launch Rockport, Alternate Grand Lake	Sun August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*9 Grand Lake - Launch South DNR	Sun August 16 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
10 Mullet Lake – Launch ALOHA State Park	Sun September 13 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM

TBWC Veterans Tournament and MI. Brown Trout Walleye Tournament are non-point tournaments.

**RULE CHANGES**

**16 and under may fish more than one time if they are the third person or more in the boat. Membership is not required.**

*16 and under do **not** need to be a family member. If the 16 and under are one of only 2 people in the boat, the entry fee for that person must be paid.*

You must sign up everyone in the boat **except those 16 and under who are the third person or more in the boat PRIOR** launching.

16 and under are not eligible for tourney contestant prize drawings at the banquet if they qualify as the 3<sup>rd</sup> person or more in the boat.

Entry fee is **\$25.00** for each participant **except those 16 and under who are the third person or more in the boat.**

There is no longer a voluntary bonus. Nearly all contestant signed up for the bonus during all previous years. The \$25 entry fee will increase all places paid during a tournament.

**A \$100.00 bonus will be paid for the largest walleye prior to the 20% withholding for each point tournament.**

**A \$500.00 bonus will be paid for 3 fish total weight over 10# for tournaments 2 or 4 or 9, additional rules apply.**

**DNR**

The boat harbor continues to be ice covered so the Chinook is locked up on land at the harbor. Last year the DNR had set fry nets out on the new reef and other areas in front of the cement plant. In the near future if you are fishing in the bay, be aware that they may be in place and avoid those spots.

The new aluminum boat for DNR research is being built and will be on the water next year.

## Brown Trout

Carl Hatala has secured at least \$8,000.00 (may be more) for first place during the Brown Trout Walleye Tournament. 2<sup>nd</sup> thru all places paid will be supported by the entire entry fee less 5% which goes to the BT general fund. So sharpen up your skills on the water and enter for a chance to collect big time.

It looks like the Michigan charitable gaming division is after BT questioning them about the nonprofit status of the club that receive money for participation during the festival.

So they are trying to get this resolved as it may affect their raffle tickets we are required to purchase and sell. This a big deal for them.

The TBWC is also under requalification with the Michigan Charitable Gaming Division. The last time this happened was 3 years ago and there was no way were going to get a raffle license unless we were association with another organization that they would OK. However that proved to be too expensive for the club. Additional expenses annually were around \$1,100.00 per year. We only have a raffle for the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tourney on Grand Lake and it would cut our profit to a loss for a year like this year was to 50% for our best year.

## BANQUET

55 people enjoyed a great meal the other entertainment. While the participation was down from previous years the club decided to go back to the original day of the banquet to the last Saturday in April. Fishing is then an option after the banquet for those who want to get on the water, lent may have been a factor as well as other functions around the area were happening.

### **March meeting notes**

Meeting called to order 7:12  
Jim Leeseberg presided.

Financials were read.

Discussion on Reel Fun Profit and Loss.

Carl Hatala gave another update on the TBWC Veterans Fishing Tournament scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> on the Bay with an alternate of Hubbard Lake if needed Alpena Alcona donated \$744.52 towards this event and more to come. Carl has about 20 boats for the tourney at this time.

Carl is working with the Chamber to build a letter/flier to send out for the Brown Trout and take to the Grand Rapids EXPO March 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Glen Klimczak gave us an update on BT.

Brown Trout needs an announcer to MC the walleye tourney. Need someone who will get involved with the tourney contestants at weigh-in. Carl Hatala is working on major sponsor for the tourney.

Extensive discussion on BT walleye prize dollars and the need for a major sponsor.

Motion to spend \$1500.00 for banquet prizes by Todd Kruger and Seconded by Carl Hatala. Passed.

Looking for people to help with the banquet.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 or so.

---

**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**

**TBWC HUBBARD LAKE TOURNEY MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**KIDS FISHING CLINIC & DERBY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>  
AT LAFARGE PAXTON QUARRY ON M-32**

**TBWC VETERANS TOURNEY SUNDAY JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**SOME TBWC HISTORY**  
The TBWC at Twenty Five Years old,  
By Mike McGirr

**HOW IT ALL STARTED**

Twenty five years ago a solitary fisherman could be observed night fishing from a canoe in the Thunder Bay River. He would often return with a limit of Walleyes and no one knew for a while where he was catching them. Finally some curious fishermen saw him casting lures around the lighthouse and following his lead, they too began to catch fish. Soon it became crowded and fisherman began to look for other places to fish. They discovered they could cast from shore behind the Yacht Club, fish the entrance to the cement plant, and eventually that led them to the grass island reef and beyond. Those were the hay days when multiple limits of 4 to 6 lb. walleyes were the norm.

About this time two crazy walleye fisherman were hollering Dubuque, Dubuque at each other (site of the Master Walleye Championship in Iowa that year), and began talking about starting a Walleye Club. There obviously was a lot of interest in Walleye fishing in our area and maybe there would be others interested in having a club that would target Walleyes.

Calls were made to the different media outlets to announce a meeting that was set to happen at the McRae Park hall. This meeting would be held to judge the interest in forming a Walleye club. To our surprise the McRae park hall was jammed that evening with little standing room available. No doubt about it, there was a lot of interest, so right then and there, that night, the club was formed, officers were elected and we were on our way to becoming a new fishing club in Northern Michigan.

Mike McGirr contacted the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club to see how they operated. Dan LaCross who was elected to the board offered a copy of the Sportsman's club bylaws, and with a few changes they were made to apply to walleye fishing. In March of 1990 the Thunder Bay Walleye was established.

Mike McGirr was the first president for 8 years, Denny Burns and Jackie Oliver, officers from the start and still active tournament people, Jim Leesburg, President now and has been for many years, Dave Birmingham, still an officer who was the crazy guy hollering Dubuque at me. Joyce O'Donnell our first Treasurer, Carl Kelly who has led many of the programs we now have, Darwin Grabow who organizes the kid's tournament every year. Without the unselfish help from our membership none of the success this club has had would be possible.

**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH**

**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: [walleyesnyper@hotmail.com](mailto:walleyesnyper@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. 595-3295 or 464-5623

---

## **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.

---

**Boat & RV Fiberglass repair--** Mid Michigan Fiberglass Inc. Owner Steve Schnettler, 1809 27th St. Bay City Michigan 989-895-7000 [www.midmichiganfiberglass.com](http://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 April 8th, 7pm 2015**

### **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**

**TB River/Lake Huron**

**TBWC Veterans Fishing Tourney**

**Kids Fishing Derby**

**Reel Fun Tourney**

**Brown Trout**