

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

April, 2009

P.O. Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers		Board of Directors
President	Jim Leeseberg	Bill O'Neil
Vice President	Dave Birmingham	Richard Hubert
Finance/Recording Secretary	Dennis Burns	Eric MacKenzie
		Kevin Cosbitt

**** Club Activities ****

- ***Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament***

Jim gave the report for the tournament stating that it was one of the smoothest events that he has been part of and was very happy that the club took part in the event. He sees our involvement as an opportunity to add the event as a fundraiser for the club and an annual event that is sure to grow. The group is aspiring to be larger in comparison by 500 more holes totaling 1,000 in hopes of attracting 750+ participants. The club owes those involved a big thank you for all the time dedicated to making the event a success and many of the key figures were very impressed with the club's efforts in hitting all the fine details necessary in making the event run smoothly- thanks guys.

- ***Annual Club Banquet- April 24, 2009***

We have a new location and time of year for the annual club outing to start the fishing season. We have moved the location to the Alpena Civic Center and will try out the new location to see how it fits. Kevin and crew have been crossing the T's, dotting the I's- they went shopping for all those nice prizes that we all want to win. It is promising to be a good night of camaraderie and fun for all to get together, wrap up last year's tournaments, and seat the new Angler of the Year. You will be able to see all the information necessary in the attachment with the newsletter. We look forward to seeing one and all for what is sure to be a good time. If you are wanting to assist in any manner and don't make it to the meeting, you can contact Kevin (356-0279) or Denny to volunteer in running a game. The club has been losing money for the past several years on the banquet so it has been decided to raise the price of the dinner to \$20.00 per person to offset the cost. **Please RSVP by Friday April 17th.**

**** Club News ****

- ***Lake Huron Regional Fishery Stakeholder Workshops- April 18th***

Brandon Schroeder from the MSU Extension and the District Sea Grant wants the membership to be aware of the upcoming workshop slated for April 18th @ the F.O.E. meeting hall on M-32. If you are available, it is sure to be a great day filled with valuable information regarding our resources of Lake Huron. The deadline for registration is Friday, April 10. If you have any questions, you can access more information by looking it up at www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries/fishery-workshop.html or contact Brandon @ 989-984-1056 or email him schroe45@msu.edu.

- ***Walleye Club Clothing***

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please contact Steve Hubert, 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 etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase. The Club ordered 36 Hanes fleece pullover hooded sweat shirts in various colors and sizes for \$25.00.

- ***TBWC Web Site***

You can access the new web page at www.tbwalleye.com. Todd already put some information out there for us and would gladly take any additional information that you might have such as pictures or news. The sight is under development at this point. You should take a minute and see what it looks like and give us some input on what you would like to see on the web sight.

- ***3rd Annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival Kick Off***

If you are interested in taking part in the event, you can see the flier that Denny attached and make sure that you see the RSVP deadline is April 12th. There are only 400 tickets sold.

- ***Captain Ed Retherford's Update***

- He reports that the Steelhead have been planted on March 25, 2009 with hopes that they will not be affected by the cormorants which have yet to arrive. The hope is that they will disperse quickly into the lake and avoid the predator fish too.
- Ed is attending a cormorant control meeting on April 1, 2009 at Hink's School to discuss control issues for the area. The group will be looking to get sponsors to assist with purchasing steel shot and fuel to offset the cost to the volunteers. The group has been set to do 50% reduction, which will result in 1,000 birds being taken from the area. The measure will require a great deal of shot and fuel to make the 50%. Ed said donations can be done through private parties or can be funneled through the Walleye Club if desired. The undertaking is costly and any help will be greatly appreciated. We have to remember that this is done through no state or federal assistance in terms of cash and funding.
- There is a meeting slated for April 1, 2009 with the Lake Huron Advisory stating all the gloom and doom on the budget for our Lake Huron. Ed will have more to report on at the April meeting.
- Ed is also getting calls from various individuals on cormorant issues at Fletcher Floodwaters which is a not a lethal zone for taking the birds. Ed suggests that people need to contact the elected representatives voicing concerns with this body of water before the damage gets too bad.

- ***Big Bite Baits***

We will have product available at the April meeting for those that have an interest in trying the baits that John discussed at the February meeting. We will have it available at all meetings and those interested in getting it outside meeting times will need to make arrangements with Romeo. You can contact him for more detail.

****Club Tournaments****

Dave Birmingham, Tournament Director, held his annual meeting to set up the tournament schedule for the 2009 season which is fast approaching with May right on our heels. You will find the schedule as an attachment with the newsletter and see that we have changed things up just little bit with the same fun locations for long weekend retreats and a few newbies to add to the fun. The group tried to accommodate those that are fishing other events in hope that all can take part in the fun of tournament fishing. The group tried to pick locations to target hot fishing locations at certain points in the season. We found the input at the meeting to be good and found some changes that everyone needs to look over for clarifications such as the number of rods which will return to Michigan law which changes this season to three rods per person on all waters. We also want to promote some of the tournaments that have turned into great weekend fishing experiences: Saginaw Bay/Tawas, St. Mary's River, and a new one Mullett Lake. If you are interested in making this a weekend you want to be part of and want to know what you have to do to be part, please feel free to join in at the meetings and show your interest.

Upcoming Activities –

1. March 25th- Steelhead plant in Thunder Bay- hopefully no cormorants

2. April 1, 2009 Meeting on cormorant control @ Hink's School 7pm
3. Banquet, April 24, 2009 doors open @ 4:30 @ the Alpena Civic Center

Fishing Partners-

We may want to review this and see if there is any interest in listing club members looking for tournament partners to share the costs. If you are interested, please email Romeo or call him at 356-1703.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sara Pusateri	Alpena	Dennis Gulau	Midland
Bob & Katie Benson	Alpena		

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 8, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

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

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Club banquet
 - Tournament Schedule
 - Banquet
 - Dock update