

THUNDER BAY WALLEYE CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2012

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers

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Vice President
Finance/Recording Secretary

Jim Leeseberg
Dave Birmingham
Dennis Burns

Board of Directors

Bill O'Neil
Richard Hubert
Eric MacKenzie
Kevin Cosbitt

NEW MEETING ROOM 126

Our previous spot with the comfortable chairs

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.

LAUNCH PERMITS

***Be sure to get your \$35 boat trailer launch permit at Alpena City Hall
or the Boat Harbor Marina***

and

don't forget your 2012 fishing license.

Upcoming Tournaments

Thunder Bay Night- Saturday, May 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The first tournament of the year is always a great time, everyone is anxious to get on the water, which usually makes for a good showing. This one should be interesting with the warm temps we've had. Will the warm temps bring more fish into the bay earlier?? Last year the fishing was tough, with only a few five fish limits brought to scale. If you haven't already done so, get the boat ready and join the rest of us. We even shaved an hour off the old 2:00 a.m. finish time to make it easier on some of you!

Hubbard Lake -Sunday, May 20th 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This should be a good one. Hubbard often has a great bite in May, as was the case last year with most boats putting a serious whooping on the Walleyes. Trolling cranks on the warmer windswept SW shoreline was a no-brainer (sorry if you chose to fish elsewhere ☺). It'll be hard to beat the numbers

of fish from last year, but certainly not impossible. Weather will be a key element! We'll see everyone there!

Member Activities and Accomplishments

If you are involved in other fishing, or outdoor events, share the news with us. It's nice to see what other members are doing.

Congratulations to Wayne VanDyke and Erich Carlson on their MWC Trenton top 10 finish. The tournament was held out of Elizabeth Park in Trenton, MI. Boats were able to fish either Lake Erie or the Detroit River. On both tournament days, Wayne and Erich pulled crawler harnesses in Lake Erie just out of the river to secure their 10th place spot in the 98 boat tournament. After an impressive 35.71 lb basket put them in 8th place and just 2.8 lbs out of first day one, they struggled to pull their fish the second day. An 8 pounder in the last minutes of the tournament gave them a 29.90 lb basket and secured 10th place.

Congrats to Wayne Vandyke and Bruce Mueller for their 6th place finish in the MWT Detroit. High winds kept most of the boats in the river, and forcing teams to jig or hand-line. They focused on a jig bite, and after a tough day one left them in 21st place, they made some key decisions that allowed them move all the way up to 6th place in the final standings of day two. The 25 to 30mph NE sustained winds made boat control brutally difficult and muddied up much of the river. This all but shut down the bite for many of the teams that were leading on day and opened the door for some comebacks. Tapping into the memory bank from some previous experiences, they knew where the water would be last to get dirty and focused on that area pulling some important fish in the last few minutes of the tournament. While not a win, this is a good example of fishing hard the whole day, and never giving up. Nice Work!

James Farm Pond

About 12 people showed up to brush road ways so you don't scratch the heck out of your vehicle and fill in some bad spots on the pond area roads.

Some how there were 4 loads of gravel/dirt at the sight and it was impossible to load all of it onto trucks and trailers with shovels....getting too old for that kind of work.

Our general contractor was contacted to help with the task and it has been reported that he did a very good job repairing the pond area roads for a minimal cost to the club.

Fish Cleaning

The DNR will be setting nets around the new reefs the first week in April and we will be cleaning fish. This has been an ongoing project for the club for several years. For those that are unaware we clean fish several times a year and distribute them to the local charities, primarily to the Friendship Room at St. Bernard's. Our efforts provide a thousand or so meals every year. If you would like to be part of the team call Carl Kelly at 356-4694.

Beware

The local DNR informs me that there will be a lot more fish nets around the new reefs this year. Be careful in the area of the Lafarge plant. They will also be setting 24 hours per day trap nets along the shoreline. These will be lighted at both ends. It is an area well fished and we will have to be more careful this year. Nets will be in 10 to 20 feet of water from Lafarge to the Bear Point area thru June of this year. The entire area will not be covered at one time. Nets will be placed in various areas at various times.

Fisheries Division is holding several hearings around the State to discuss potential regulation changes concerning brook trout, muskellunge and northern pike. The attached list shows the dates and locations of each meeting. The links below will take you to the MDNR website where there is an explanation of each potential change and a link to a survey so you can provide input.

[Public Meetings...brook trout.pdf](#)

Check out Fisheries Division's [2011 Accomplishments Report](#) which highlights programs and work completed in an effort to maintain and improve Michigan's fishery.

TBWC Banquet

TBWC Banquet was once again a success. Good fun was had by all in attendance. It was a great way to celebrate the previous year's events, and to spend time with fishing friends and family. Once again there were lots of great prizes including rod and reel combos, and a variety of tackle packs for both the anglers and other attendees. Pam Hubert once again took the time to put together some wonderful gift baskets for the ladies. Thanks Pam! A big thank you goes out once again to Jim Leeseberg and Kevin Cosbitt for purchasing the prizes and organizing the event.

Walleye Club jacket orders

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.

All items are at club cost.

Brown Trout

The Club is required to purchase 300 of their raffle tickets for the BT Festival. I will be mailing 3 to the membership in June. Your options are:

1. Sell for \$5 each or 3 for \$10.
- 2 Purchase yourself.
- 3 Do nothing and return tickets to the club.
- 4 Return ticket stubs and checks or the entire ticket to the club in the enclosed return envelope.

Checks should be made out to the **Thunder Bay Walleye Club** not to the Brown Trout Festival.

Search *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 been officially Romeo'd) know the events you are involved with by calling 595-3295 or 464-5623 or email me at walleynesnyper@hotmail.com We'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments -****

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jesse Paul and Jason Witkowski Alpena
Duane Cramer (Rotary Auction) Alpena

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 9th, 2012 at 7:00 pm

ACC Besser Tech Center (New 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)

AGENDA:

- New Business
- Banquet
- Fishing

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Memberships can be mailed to PO Box 812 or paid at the monthly meeting for the 2012 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 header. Membership dues are \$15.00 for a single membership (you alone) and \$25.00 for a family membership (all those living in the same house).

If you have questions, call Denny Burns by email at jackieodennyb@frontier.com