

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

August 2014

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

## NO MEETING IN AUGUST

August is upon us, and it has been quite an interesting year, as far as fishing goes. While there is certainly some great fishing taking place on the inland lakes, Thunder Bay have been a bit more fickle this year. There sure has been a big difference in between the past few summers and this summer, and for many of us, this summer has not lived up to expectations. With the brutal winter and long slow spring, most of us had hoped for a nice summer, but it was not to be. The Walleye fishing on Lake Huron is also noticeably different than the past few years. With great numbers and quality in the summers of 2012 and 2013, we were expecting another year of the same, but Mother Nature changed the plan. It seems we haven't received our usual "push-up" from Saginaw Bay this year, as the cool to moderate temperatures have kept most of the fish from their usual migration. It's not that there are not Walleye to be caught, because there are, but if you are looking for numbers, you better plan on heading south, way south. All of the usual summertime locations are still producing some fish, just not in the numbers we have become accustomed to, and with the water temps in the low 60's all over, they are truly spread out all over. Three to five Walleye an outing is more the norm as opposed to the tens and twenties that were happening quite often last year. Don't get me wrong, as was evidenced during the Brown Trout, if you stay out all day and know what you are doing, you can certainly end up with a nice take. You are just going to be working a bit harder for them. Often, we can take it a bit too seriously if we aren't catching fish consistently, and I have found that in order to better enjoy our time on the water, we need to sometimes get ourselves in the mindset that we have to work harder for them! This year, pick a nice day and go out and enjoy the fresh air. Seems like we are all being forced to work a lot harder for a lot less these days, so why not work harder on the fishing end of it too.

The Salmon and Lake Trout are, and have been biting very well out of Presque Isle. The same cooler water conditions that are making the Walleye fishing tougher, are making the Salmon fishing better, as the numbers and health of the fish seem to be improving, and the water conditions stay a bit more consistent without hot weather to stack up warm water.

### Brown Trout Overview

There were 24 teams the elected to fish the Two Day Walleye Extravaganza, which turned out to be a rollercoaster of a tournament for many teams. There were some fantastic weights brought in on both days from the upper 20's to low 30's that are evidence of the quality fishery we have here. The teams that were most successful focused their attention on or around Thunder Bay, Gull, and Sugar Islands, but again, the lower numbers of fish and amount of boats working the same areas made it tough to get your five, and patience was both friend and foe. One of the top teams was also reportedly fishing up just north of Middle Island. With the cooler water, it seemed that the go to presentation was crankbaits trolled in the rocks from 12-25 feet of water.

## CLUB TOURNAMENTS

### THUNDER BAY JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>

This tournament is always scheduled the week before the Michigan Brown Trout walleye two day tourney to give those fishing the Brown Trout tourney a heads up on what, where and how things are going on the bay and outer water areas.

Weather was windy to say the least but the bite was good if you found the fish. 51 contestants were on the water with 31 weighing in. Fish seemed to NOT be in the same area as the day before apparently on the move. Fish were caught pulling crawler harnesses as well as hard body baits.

First was Mark Haugerud and his son Seth breaking the 30# mark with 30.80 lbs. and largest fish 7.17#. (WOW) A close second was Eric Kruczynski and his son Gage along with Ben Skiba 27.08 lbs. and their largest 8.46#. Third was Bryan Kozlowski and James Proffit boating a close third with 25.09#. Honorable mention goes to Jim Leeseberg and Rissa Budnick with 23.73# and their largest at 5.93#.

31 contestants weighed fish. Some do not elect to weigh fish at tournaments but should to give us a better look and results.

### Rockport August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Rockport is usually a good area this time of year but this year proved to be somewhat less for most fishing this tourney. Prefishing did not go well for those who went with a fish here and there. Top water temps in the mid 60's and stable weather didn't seem to help. 14 out of 33 fishing weighed fish and not just walleye 2 boats caught large steelhead and one coming to the scale around 11 lbs. Too bad it wasn't a walleye, it sure would have helped out Rob Frantz and Phil Smigelski. Eric and Gage Kruczynski also had the opportunity to land a large steely which Gage had some different action than reeling an eye.

First goes to Carl Hatala and Bill Brado weighing 22.43 #. A very close second is Dean Miller and Marc Haring new members with 21.72 lbs. and their largest was a very nice 8.82#. Third is Chris and Scott Wade weighing in 4 fish for 13.84 lbs.

## IMPORTANT

### TBWC KIDS FISHING DAY PAXTON QUARRY THIS SATURDAY AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>

Paxton Quarry M-32 Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> 9am – 2pm

Darwin Grabow (HOME PH 989 354-4788, Cell 255 7167) club member along with the Sportsmen's Club and Long Beards are holding a kids fishing day Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup>. If Saturday is a rain out it will be moved to Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Bring your boat**, fishing gear and above all your kids, grandkids or any kid that you can think of that would enjoy the day. Hot dogs and compliments along with crawlers will be provided.

Questions call Darwin.

**BEST FIVE OF 9**  
**2014 Thunder Bay Walleye Club Best 5 Tournament Standings**  
**Top 50 of 107 Fishing thru 7 of 9 Tournaments**

Name	Points Best 5 of 9	Rank
Kruczynski, Eric	416.84	1
Brado, Bill	399.08	2
Hatala, Carl	399.08	2
Wade, Chris	394.42	3
Wade, Scott	394.42	3
VanMassenhove, Dan	337.35	4
VanMassenhove, Gary	337.35	4
Peterson, Adam	315.10	5
MacKenzie, Eric	302.31	6
Byce, Mark	285.62	7
Watts, Jim	285.62	7
Skiba, Ben	284.60	8
Franklin, Matt	270.01	9
Kruczynski, Gage	228.22	10
Spicer, Jesse	225.24	11
Spicer, Jim	225.24	11
Burns, Denny	222.39	12
Oliver, Jackie	222.39	12
Gulau, Dennis	206.61	13
McCalebb, Marc	206.61	13
LaPlaunt, Steve	192.26	14
Sharp, Tom	192.26	14
Kruttlin, Jon	191.03	15
Lapine, Bryan	191.03	15
Crittinden, Dustin	178.87	16
Bourdage, Romeo	175.23	17
Haugerud, Mark	174.76	18
Bruski, Trent	173.90	19
Gapczynski, Tony	173.90	19
Somers, Dennis	166.91	20
Gabara, Nick	165.15	21
Donajkowski, Larry J	158.49	22
Jones, Tom	158.49	22
Kozlowski, Bryan	147.85	23
Leeseberg, Jim	136.00	24
Kruger, Todd	131.67	25
Douglas, Al	123.14	26
Birk, Adam	117.98	27
Donajkowski, Kaleb	100.00	28
Haugerud, Seth	100.00	28

## HELP US

### TAKE A FEW MINUTES AFTER A TOURNAMENT

#### **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: [walleesnyper@hotmail.com](mailto:walleesnyper@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.

#### ***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.

#### **Here is a list of high quality hooded sweat shirts we have left.**

Stone washed light blue, 1 M, 4 L, 4 XL, 1 XXL at \$30.00 ea.

Dark Grey, 4 L, 5 XL, 1 XXL, 3 XXXL at \$25.00 ea.

Light Grey, 1 M, 5 XL at \$25.00 ea.

Dark Blue, 4 XL at \$25.00 ea.

All have a small club logo on the left breast. **All items are at club cost.**

#### **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 spring/summer tune up? 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.

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 know the events you are involved with by calling 595-3295 or 464-5623 or email me at [walleesnyper@hotmail.com](mailto:walleesnyper@hotmail.com) we'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments.

**NEXT MEETING  
NO MEETING IN AUGUST**