

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

September, 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 ****

- ***Museum- Club Activities***

A “real hats off salute” to all those that participated in the event at the museum working with young kids, those that participated, I did not get all their names, stated that they tied more than 150 harnesses throughout the event. It was stated that had they not stopped the kids from tying, they might still be there. The group was very thankful for this hands-on activity for the kids and applauded our teachers. I want to personally say, way to go to all those that participated in giving the club good press. It’s nice to hear the positive comments throughout the community when we volunteer to help out in ANY way.

- ***Paxton Quarry Needs Your Help- Find Out How Many Fish Are Really In There☺***

Our own Bob Baughman has arranged for the Walleye Club and Bass Clubs to team up and spend a day on the quarry catching (and releasing) fish to see exactly what is in there. For years, the quarry has received fish from all areas and been the site for kid’s fishing, Lafarge events, etc. but no one really knows how many and kinds of fish that inhabit in the pond. Bob has made arrangements for the groups to boat up and fish the area for the day on September 19 from 7 to 3ish with burgers and hotdogs provided following the event. If you have any questions, please contact Bob @ home 379-2016 or work 358-3380. Bob thanks for heading this event up and offering a kind of a unique fishing experience to our people.

Sept 19th with rain day of Sunday the 20th.

All catch & release. The Bass Club will be doing a \$10/person single big fish side bet - if a person wants to participate, they need a working livewell in their boat. Boats must comply with all DNR boating rules.

It will run from 7-3 approx. Bob will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs starting around 3:00. No alcohol.

Bass club thought they would have 10-15 boats, I thought we may have 5-10. Shouldn't need to limit the #. Parking will be interesting, but we will figure something out. By Bob Baughman

**** Club News ****

- ***Brown Trout*** There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the two-day event with the Brown Trout and thoughts on how to make it more successful. It was brought forward that the weigh-ins were pretty poor for those that weighed fish. The top complaint was that no one took the lead during the weigh-in itself making sure that everyone was in line and then to top it off, the band just kept on playing while the fish were weighed. People had no idea that there was a weigh-in going on if they were not paying attention. Some the contestants were taken aback by the music and disorganization because there were significant amounts of people present to see the event, but since there was not a lead person, no one took the initiative to focus the attention of the crowd to the weighing of the fish. They also noted that the board was not updated showing participants the weight necessary to advance. The tournament committee also fell short on the website not updating the day one leader board to show the places and weight.

The thought shared at the meeting was possibly trying to seek out a sponsor to support the event such as Bass Pro and work in unison with the Club and the tournament committee on making it more widespread to gain interest other than just the local fishermen in the club/area. They believe that by supporting the tournament with a name-brand sponsor that the festival could attract the out-of-town fishermen. There was a great deal of talk about what the status will be with the Brown Trout for 2010 and the need for someone from the Club to step in and work with them in coordinating the event. There was also discussion about doing our own tournament rather than meshing it with the Brown Trout. Most of the members present shared their thoughts about the idea but were not sure how it would work with the follow-through of the membership. It's a great idea, but one that needs more discussion at the upcoming meetings. If you have any insight or thoughts, please speak up at the meeting or contact a board member to share your ideas.

- ***Grand Lake Ice Fishing Extravaganza 2010***

The word is out, the 2009 was good; but the 2010 event is going to be even better if The Thunder Bay Walleye Club has their way with it. The Club has been awarded the opportunity to take a larger role in working with the event this year by increasing the number of holes and therefore participants. The committee has given the Club the floor to do what we want with earning money during the event- 50-50's, food, raffles, etc. Jim and Dave came back from the meeting with high hopes and lots of energy concerning the opportunity to assist with a great organization and benefit the club by earmarking the event as a new way to earn more revenue for the club. There will be more to come as the time nears.

- ***Walleye Club Clothing***

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 657-4646, 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 sweatshirts 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. If you have any pictures to add, you can do so on the web site or by contacting Todd through the web site. You can also BLOG (say what's on your mind) on this web sight. Please keep it to fishing related topics.

******Reminder that there is a gold mine of info on how to fish walleye at the Alpena County Library in VHS, DVD,CD and written format by In Fishermen courtesy of our club.******

****Club Tournaments****

- ***Saginaw Bay, August 9, 2009***

Well, as usual, would the weather cooperate to provide a peaceful day on the Saginaw Bay? NO! Many of use made the trip down on Saturday to try and make it out pre-fishing to locate fish and barely made it out past point AuGres before the storms moved in about midmorning. I know that some of the people pre-fished on Friday with marginal success but Saturday was really a wash with the unstable conditions and heavy winds. When we pulled out around noon, we were pushing around 4-7' waves at certain points. I know that my riders were glad to call it a day. I think that the worst of it came just about when we were getting ready to move from the 1st Buoy. I think that it took about 50 minutes to go less than four miles. We set up outside the river mouth out about 2 miles. Kevin and Dill were right there with us and thought it was pretty cool watching us in the swells of the waves. We all pulled in about the same time and ended up

sharing the day's catch and what worked and didn't work while having a warm coffee and lunch. The next day was not much better but proved to even out midway through the day; by the end of the tournament, it was actually a really nice day. The day started off really nasty in that a storm moved in right off the bat, which ended up being pretty bad. Some fishermen, (Jim L.) camped out at the restaurant waiting out the storm, which probably was a smart choice since the fish really did not cooperate until a little after the storm moved through. I think that everyone caught fish and had a decent time despite the nasty weather to start the day. 1st place went to Wayne VanDyke, Erik Carlson, and Larry Donjakowski Jr., with 20.38#s winning \$380 fishing the Bell Buoy with Buggy Blades, Indiana blades, Chartreuse/orange in 40 to 50' of water with 1oz in-line weights going real slow. The Fish that they were targeting were suspended at about the 22' range. They saw that many of the fish were puking up smelt and found that they had to feed the crawler to the fish to get them to go. 2nd place went to Romeo Bourdage, Mark Haugraud, and Brent Holcomb with 16.38#s who took a risk and moved from the 1st buoy to the Steeples that are located about 8-10 miles east (I think, I am not good with directions) of the Charities. We did not get to pre-fish the area but knew we had to make a move about 11am with only two fish in the box and the gamble paid off. We pulled six fish in one long pass over the outer most Steeples with similar fish but nothing over 3#'s. We targeted the fish with 1oz in-line weights, gold blades, chartreuse beads. By the time we were done, we had all the same harnesses on all 6 lines; we couldn't keep anymore in the water. We circled the area and topped off with a limit of fish but were not able to upgrade more than the 3#'s. Overall, it was a great time with lots of action and one in which taught us a lesson on watching the time. We thought that we had more than enough with 28 minutes but didn't realize the overall distance from the outer Steeple to AuGres. It was close but we made it with a minute or two to spare- yikes we did 50+ all the way in those rollers. 3rd place went to the Hubert crew with 10.60#s and went through 10+ fish for the day fishing south of AuGres using snap weights and all different colors- nothing seemed to trigger any type of pattern.

- ***St. Mary's River, August 30, 2009***

Wow, another great weekend for weather and fishing! Not. I wonder if the next two tournaments could possibly cooperate a little with us to make for a peaceful day of fishing. For those of us that headed up early and some pulled a few days of pre-fishing, finding fish seemed to be the difficulty. I know that many came in on Friday and really struggled to find fish throughout the system. I know that Dave and Billy fished Wednesday and Thursday, and I think didn't pull but a few fish throughout the system. On Friday, Billy and Brett finally pulled a decent catch, but it was late in the day and proved to be the better time to fish which unfortunately was after 3pm. The rest of us that moved around the river on Friday were fortunate to tag a few fish but nothing to scream home about. Saturday proved to be another beautiful day of fishing- not. The rain, wind, and cold featured the better part of the day and those that stayed behind at the hotel likely made the right choice. The only one who seemed to really burn it up on Saturday was Erik Mackenzie and Brent Holcomb who boated about 7 walleye while moving all over Lake George. They met us at the dock around 2pm and had one heck of a wet ride but the fishing that they had was worth it. The rest of us tried any means to dry our stuff and get ready for the next day. We all had a great time both nights and found the new accommodations to be good- and close to town. I think that the overall consensus was that we would stay here again the next year. Sunday proved to be a nice day for the tournament with it being a little chilly in the morning but turned out to be a warm one by noon. The majority of boats headed for Lake George and stuck around the same area that has produced in years past on the south side. Taking 1st place and going through a boat-load of fish, were Wayne VanDyke, Erik Carlson, and "Dad" Carlson with 5 fish weighing 13.74#. They pulled the same routine with in-line weights and chartreuse and gold harnesses in 15' of water. They worked the same area as most of us did and hammered out the fish--way to go guys. 2nd place went to Brian Matchett, Jim Watts, and Mark Bryce with 11# for 5 fish and did the same thing by hammering the fish at the south end of Lake George. 3rd

Place went to Romeo Bourdage and Greg Wieschowski with 10.85# but only pulled 4 fish in the same location. I think that everyone else came in with some fish and targeted the south channel and Lake Nicolette. If you were not able to make this event, it is a premier fishery and one that is always fun to be part of if you can get away for the weekend. You need to set your calendar for next year and make time for this event.

Upcoming Activities –

1. Hubbard Lake, Sunday September 13, 2009 7-3
2. September 19, 2009 Paxton Quarry
3. Grand Lake, Sunday September 27, 2009 7-3

Other Events:

****- Please let Romeo know the events you are involved with by calling 356-1703 work 358-5219 email bourdager@charter.net – we'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments -****

** Other Information**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

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

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Brown Trout Survey update
 - Brown Trout update on resignations
 - Kid's fishing at Paxton Quarry update
 - Ice Fishing Extravaganza- Bigger and Better
- New Business
 - September 19th update on fishing the Quarry with Bob
 - Romeo needs help- I need someone to cover writing the Newsletter for the next 15 months while I am taking classes toward my Ed Specialist Degree- this is not a request- If a single person does not want to volunteer, the club can break it into segments, but I will need someone(s) to pick it up beginning in October. I will work with you to make easy. I will not be at the meeting Wednesday, so let me know when a decision is reached. Thanks- I will pick the writing back up when I am finished with my degree.