

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

## February 2020

P.O. Box 812, Alpena, MI 49707

Officers			Board of Directors	
<i>President</i>	Eric Kruczynski		Jim Leesberg	
<i>Vice President</i>	Jon Kruttlin		Eric MacKenzie	
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Dan VanMassenhove		Jeremy Phillips	
			Spencer Weidbrauk	

### February 12, 2020 Meeting Highlights

We had a very productive and exciting meeting last week for all those that missed it...Meeting summary below...

- TBWC 2020 Schedule was set.
  1. April 25<sup>th</sup> Long Lake North End Public Launch 6pm-2am
  2. May 9<sup>th</sup> Au Gres Public Launch 7am-3pm
  3. June 12-13 Nite Eyes 6pm-2am each night, launch at the Alpena Boat Harbor
  4. August 2<sup>nd</sup> Rockport 7am-3pm
  5. September 20<sup>th</sup> Hubbard Lake East Bay Launch 7am-3pm
- Other TBWC Tournament Rules Voted on and changed for the 2020 season.
  - Entry Fee \$100/boat for each tournament no matter how many people onboard.
  - 6-line limit still applies.
  - All people must be a member of the TBWC to fish any TBWC tournament.
  - Voluntary big fish side pot of \$20/boat for each tournament. It will be \$20/boat/night for Nite Eyes. 1 big fish spot paid each tournament, and each night of Nite Eyes.
  - All 5 TBWC tournaments will count for AOY.
  - \$500 Bonus paid one time for 2020. The first team to weigh 3 fish for 10 lbs or more on an inland lake, or 1 fish for 10 lbs or more on Lake Huron will receive the \$500 bonus paid for by TBWC. Winner has to present to the TBWC at either the following monthly meeting, or the annual banquet how the fish were caught. Once this has been paid, it is done for the rest of the year. Make sure you attend our tournaments for your chance at the \$500 bonus!!!
- Meeting Location and Time Change...Going forward, meetings will be held at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole banquet room at 6:00pm the second Wednesday of the month. For March this will be Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The main objective of changing the location of the meeting is 2-fold...First it will hopefully encourage more people to attend being in a social setting where you can get a

food and a beverage if you so choose. Secondly, the early time both will help those with young kids at home to be able to make these meetings and ensure we cover all required club business and fishing information at the date of the meeting.

- For all future meetings, there will be a portion of the meeting set aside to discuss walleye fishing!!! Techniques, Tactics, Equipment, How to Locate Fish, How to Approach a Tournament or New Lake, General Tips, etc. This has been done in the past, but due to several factors, it has gone by the wayside. Both new members and senior members alike expressed interest in bringing this back and we full intend on doing so. Next month I (Eric Kruczynski) plan on personally kicking off this segment. I plan on starting with what I feel is the most important topic of walleye fishing...HOW TO LOCATE WALLEYES!!! You can't catch fish that are not there regardless of your technique. I think most seasoned fisherman will agree with the saying that "10% of the water in a lake will hold 90% of the fish". How do we narrow this down efficiently based on a specific lake, time of year, forage base, etc.?

I will kick off the discussion but would encourage all our veteran fisherman to add their input, and all our newer walleye anglers to asks questions. It is the only way we all learn, and we are all continually learning and evolving in the sport.

- Speaking of Veteran Fisherman...For the upcoming March meeting we will have 2 guest speakers. Ed Clements, Bay City, MI commissioner, and Mike Kelly, Director of the Great Lake Office Conservation Services. There will provide us with an update and status of the current commercial fishing bills and commercial fishing operations in Saginaw Bay. These Bills will have a large impact on our fishery up in Thunder Bay. Ed is also a top-notch veteran walleye tournament angler and will be contributing to our how to locate walleyes conversation and will answer any other questions guys may have.
- Jim Leeseberg is asking for 4 volunteers to attend and help during the Reel Fun Fishing Tournament this Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers need to report to Jim at the event at 11:00am and need to help until the end of the event at approximately 3:30pm. Please call Jim if you're available to help @ (989) 657-1393. This is our club's largest fundraiser and we need to support this fully. Appreciate your support in advance!
- With Romeo Bourdage leading the charge, we are making great progress on this year's Walleye Extravaganza sponsorships! We are currently just \$1,250 shy of our \$10,000 first place sponsored prize. Huge thanks to Biggby Coffee, Panel Processing, Meridian Industrial, Gator Bait, TBWC, Plowman's, Thunder Bay Electric, BT Festival, Alcona Motors, and Northern Dents!!! If anyone knows anyone/any business interested in sponsoring the remaining amount or portion thereof, please have them contact Romeo, Dan VanMassenhove, Jon Kruttlin, or myself ASAP. Please support these sponsors. What a great event for our community!

- The South Shore Party Store/TBWC Hubbard Lake Ice Fishing tournament went very well. Over 170 people attended the event. Largest Perch was 15 1/8". Largest Walleye was 22 1/4". Top Prize for both was \$2,250! Congrats to the winners and all the volunteers at the event. Job well done by all.

### **Next Meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm Twin Acres/19<sup>th</sup> Hole**

- Discussions regarding our current AOY scoring system and potential change.
- Discussions regarding a new TBWC logo and potential change.
- Update on the 2020 Alpena Walleye Extravaganza Progress.
- How to locate Walleye Conversation.
- Guest Speakers Ed Clements and Mike Kelly

### **New Gear Review**

*This section is devoted to new fishing gear reviews. Each newsletter, we'd like a different member to share their personal review on some new (or new to them) fishing equipment they recently obtained. This is a great way to give some real-world feedback on new products to help the rest of our membership make purchasing choices. Gear is defined as any equipment used for the sport of walleye fishing, any season, any size. From ice cleats, shanty's, snowmobiles, boats, rod socks, etc. everything is game for this section no matter how big or how small...*

**2020 Quantum Strategy Reels Review** – I recently purchased three new Quantum Strategy reels to use for the ice fishing season. I bought these expecting them to be a typical cheap reel just to get by. After a couple trips with them, I think they should be priced at double their retail of \$29.99. They are super smooth with 5 +1 ball bearings. The grip is extremely comfortable, they have continuous anti reverse, and surprisingly smooth drag. I'm going to move these to my vertical jigging reels for the season and purchase a couple of the larger models for open water casting. You may want to give them a try if you are looking to expand your spinning reel arsenal.



-Jon Kruttlin, Vice President TBWC...Second in Command Alcona Motors...Harrisville, MI Walleye Fishing Legend... 😊

### **Fishing Reports**

*We are asking members to please contribute detailed fishing reports with photos. The idea here is to share our knowledge with our membership base. For those of you not wanting to blow your spot up by*

*sharing information...well the idea here is to all expand our knowledge, it's one of the main focuses of the club. You don't have to give exact coordinates to your location, but rather focus on techniques, presentations, and structure features. Also, this is sent to membership several weeks after you submit your report, and THAT bite you reported is no longer there. So please share so we can all learn more!!!*

**2-8-2020 Eric MacKenzie and Romeo Bourdage, Hubbard Lake**

Both Eric and Romeo fish the TBWC/Southshore Tournament. Fishing was very slow with only a few fish caught by both teams and varies depths of water tried from 16-55ft. Similar results reported from all contestants at the weigh in as well.

**2-8-2020 Eric Kruczynski, Chris Wade, and new member Jeff VanTorre, Long Lake**

We set up at 8:00 am in the middle of the south end of long lake looking for perch. After battling the cold and setting a large tip up/jigging spread we called it a day after only 3 hours and 3 nice perch to show for our efforts. The bite seemed to be off this morning in our area. Marked several quality perch on electronics all morning, but never could trigger one to bite a jig. Tip ups were our only action.

**2-8-2020 Jeremy Phillips Extreme Predator Hunt**

Not a fishing report, but we'd like to extend a huge congratulations to TBWC board member Jeremy Phillips whose team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Extreme Predator hunt that is held over the full moon weekends in January and February. Jeremy's team was only one coyote shy from winning the whole thing. Great Job Jeremy!!!

**TBWC Member Businesses. Please support our fellow members!!!**

**Greg Trelfa – The Boat Keeper**

*(989) 595-3149*

Full service marine mechanic and rigging specialist. Sells and installs all major name brand electronics.

**Nate Engstrom – The Boat House**

*(989) 340-1120*

Full service dealer for: Ranger Boats, Avalon Pontoons, Starcraft/Starweld, Smokercraft, Yamaha, Mercury, Evinrude and a full line of associated OMC parts, and supplies. Sells and installs all major name brand electronics.

**Brad Valley – Valley's Canvas**

*(989) 464-1191*

Full service dealer for Minnkota and Cannon. Full service custom canvas shop.

**Jon Kruttlin – Alcona Motors**

*(888) 572-3878*

Full service Chevy and Buick dealer.

## **Final Notes**

- 2020 Membership Fees are due. \$15 individual. \$25 Family (in the same household). Checks made to TBWC. Bring to the next meeting or mail to TBWC, P.O. Box 812, Alpena, MI 49707
- Please Remember Ice Safety Always!!! Let's come home safe to our families...
- Please make it a personal goal in 2020 to introduce someone new into our sport of walleye fishing!
- Please make your best efforts to attend all of our upcoming meetings. There will be a few exciting and positive changes moving forward and we value your input.
- Check our TBWC Facebook page run by Jon Kruttlin for updates.
- Welcome New Member Eric Lenz and Chuck Martel!!!

**2019 AOY.....Mark Haugard**