

Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

January 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	

January 8, 2020 Meeting Highlights

There were a lot of changes for the TBWC Meeting...

- Eric Kruczynski was voted in as President

Many of you know me well, but for those that do not, I'd like to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Alpena, MI. My parents are Mike and Peggy. I was very fortunate to grow up in a very outdoors oriented family. I have a 13-year old son named Gage that is and has been my main fishing partner since he fished his first tournament with me at the ripe old age of 4 😊. I'm currently employed by Kao Chemical Corp as their Water Treatment Manager for its US divisions. This work involves some travel, but I am always available by cell phone and email if anyone needs to contact me. Gage and I enjoy chasing walleyes, salmon and lake trout on soft water including many tournaments throughout MI each year. We also like to ice fish a multitude of different species when we are not out trapping and hunting. I'm excited to begin my role as president of the TBWC and appreciate everyone's support!

- Dan VanMassenhove was voted in as Secretary/Treasurer
- Jeremy Phillips, Spenser Wiedbrauk, and Jim Leesberg were voted in on the board of directors
- I'd like to pass along a HUGE special thanks to Denny Burns, Jim Leesberg as club officers and Bill O'Neil, Richard Hubert as board members. We appreciate all your efforts over the years in making TBWC what it is today. Your hard work and dedication will forever be appreciated by all of us. Your future guidance as we transition in the new officers will be greatly appreciated to ensure the continued success of the TBWC. Our club goals remain the same moving forward. We hope to promote, protect, and mutually enjoy the sport of walleye fishing, to share and expand our knowledge as a group, to introduce new anglers to our shared passion, give back and try to better our community as a

whole, and lastly but most importantly...to educate and support our youth about fishing in hopes future generations will carry on our work...

- Motion was presented and passed to give away a new Eskimo Propane ice auger from a ticket drawing to one lucky hole drilling volunteer at the Reel Fun Ice Tournament and 10 free hole tickets given away as subsequent winners. This is in addition to free TBWC membership dues for 2020 for everyone that shows up to help. We need at least 7 more volunteers for the work secession being held on February 21st- 11:00 am-3:00pm at the grand lake south end launch. If you're interested, please call Jim Leesberg @ (989) 657-1393. This is the TBWC's largest fundraiser. It's very important we support this fully as a group. Thank you to everyone that have already volunteered!
- Romeo is heading up gathering sponsors for this year's Walleye Extravaganza. Eric Kruczynski, Jon Kruttlin, Dan VanMassenhove, and Jeremy Phillips will be assisting with this. If you know of anyone or any company that would be interested in being a sponsor for this event, please contact Eric Kruczynski or Romeo Bourdage ASAP! Our goal is \$10,000 for a guaranteed first place prize. We have a substantial way to go to achieve this aggressive goal and need to shore up this prize money ASAP so we can begin promoting this event. As of today, we have Bigbee Coffee (\$1,250), Panel Processing (\$1,500), and the Michigan Brown Trout Festival (min \$2,000) as sponsors. The Extravaganza will be held on July 25th, 2020 and will now be a one-day tournament. To find out more about these exciting changes and why they are happening, make sure to attend the February meeting!
- The South Shore Party Store/TBWC Hubbard Lake Ice Fishing tournament is still scheduled for February 8th. Please proceed with extreme caution.

Next Meeting: February 12th 7:00pm ACC

- Set 2020 TBWC Tournament Schedule – If you want to provide input, make sure you attend.
- Shore Up Help for Reel Fun Ice Tournament Set Up (contact Jim Leesberg if you're interested). Volunteers get a chance to win a new Eskimo Propane Auger!
- Update on the 2020 Alpena Walleye Extravaganza Progress

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 Skidoo Expedition SE Review – I'll kick this new section off. First off, please note that I'm not sponsored by or affiliated in anyway with Skidoo or BRP. I snow checked a new Expedition SE last March (Yes, I'm to blame for jinxing us with this horrible weather we've had to start off the winter season...Lol). I received in mid-October and with the winter weather we had from the end of October through Christmas I was able to set up the machine and put +28 miles on it both test driving and ice fishing.

I've owned snowmobiles my whole life (Polaris, Artic Cat, Yamaha, and Skidoo's all included). This new Expedition is IMO the best ice fishing, trail, work sled ever built by any manufacturer. Mine has the 900 Ace 4 stroke motor, 2 speed transmission, ice cobra track, up graded hyfax, Lin-Q chain saw holder, Lin-Q auger rack. Motor and transmission combination have more than enough power and control to go from creeper gear pulling heavy cargo to lifting ski's up when pegged wide open on grand lake. Unbelievable room and storage, and overall features. For those of you looking for a long-term investment, utility/trail/ice fishing sled...I don't believe you can do any better. If any TBWC members are seriously interested in one, give me a call and I'll happily arrange to show you mine in person/test drive it.



-Eric Kruczynski

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!!!

12-22-19 Eric Kruczynski Grand Lake

I started out at first light in the south end of the lake in 5-6 fow. Bottom was a mix of sand grass, rock and muck with some intermittent bull rushes frozen vertical in the ice. The bite was excellent on JUMBO perch until 9:00 am. I couldn't get anything going jigging, but a large blue shiner on a tip up 8-12" off

bottom was the ticket for me all day. 2 of the perch I pulled here were over 14" another was a 15 1/4" giant. I also pulled a 16" walleye here.

After 9:00 am the bite shut down at this location, so I moved a few miles to the SW area of the lake in 12-14 fow. There was a mix a sandgrass and cabbage. I was able to finish out my 2-man limit of perch (11-15"), 9 walleye total, and a 33" pike. I was done fishing by 4:30pm. All and all an excellent first outing of the year.



Classifieds

Please email me: Eric.Kruczynski@yahoo.com if you have any for sale items you'd like listed. Items will be listed for one monthly newsletter cycle, unless requested for an additional extension each month.

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 Jeff VanTorre!

2019 AOY.....Mark Haugard