

Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

June 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	

Next Meeting: 6:00 pm Wednesday June 24th

- I'm sooooo happy to announce that we can begin holding our meetings again!!!
- The 19th Hole will accommodate us in the same room as last time.
- If you feel you need to wear a mask, please do so, also if you're uncomfortable meeting in a group that is understandable. But the board and executive members will be there.
- We will be discussing the Browntrout Festival, and the Walleye Extravaganza. Both of which are going to be held!!!

Nite Eyes Recap

For those of you that missed it...you truly missed a great event. We hosted 18 teams this year, the best turn out we've had in a very long time. I have to be honest; it was a bit disappointing to see many of our normal club members that normally fish it not participate. However, the support we received from both the LSCWA and SBWC for the event, made up for that, and it was a lot of fun. We are truly thankful to those that took the time to travel up for this event!!!

The first waves of migratory fish arrived just in time and there were plenty of fish caught despite some challenging and changing conditions Day 1. To reiterate my earlier message prior to Nite Eyes that you don't need a fancy glitter boat, a dedicated partner, or a lot of tournament experience proved to be true. As our winner fished a 14' tiller boat, and fished solo the first night as his partner couldn't make it.

Sometimes to weigh big, you need to fish small and that is just what Mitch Arville did. Mitch concentrated on pulling crawler harnesses in the inner bay during daylight hours, and the first night connected on 5 big girls before dark. The second night he used the same approach although he had to finish getting his last couple weigh fish after dark on near by rock reefs pulling cranks. Connecting on those same fish as they moved up to feed shallow after dark. Mitch's 2-day total weight was 41.82 lbs. This was Mitch's first tournament win of this type of format. Huge congrats to Mitch!!!

Jon Kruttlin and Nate Gauthier weighed in a great bag on Day 1 with some excellent last-minute decision making to pull 2 large kicker fish to round out a day one weight of 24.57 lbs.

Unfortunately, they could not relocate those larger fish on Day 2, but still managed a 2-day weight of 38.81 lbs. Excellent work boys, especially considering a lack of pre-fishing time going into the event!!

Yours truly, fishing with my son Gage, and Matt Matuzak and managed a 3rd place finish despite a very challenging Day 1 for our team. My son Gage forgot to take his Bonine seasick medication, and found himself getting instantly sick after making the run down near scarecrow island. After getting Gage back to the dock and back out we lost some substantial fishing time. After pulling 3 nice fish at a scarecrow upon our return light one angler, Matt Matuzak and I headed to the big reef for a miracle shot and hopes of pulling two fish. We caught one right away and after a short bit had #2 at the back of the boat! Unfortunately, he came unbuttoned before I could fully get him in the net. It was a heart breaker. I decided to head in for two reasons...#1 I had to check for boats getting in on time, #2 I decided to long line two lures along the rocks by the green light house. It paid off as we boated a 3 lber with less than a minute to spare for our 5th fish! Do not ever give up guys!!!! Day 2 we went through 14 fish fishing 5 different areas, but could not find a big kicker and ended with 37.95 lbs.

Rounding out the top 5 was Romeo and Hawg taking 4th with 36.97 lbs, and Nate Cosbitt, Kevin Cosbitt, and Matt Spragg taking 5th with 36.23 lbs. I was especially proud of Nate doing so well as a newer angler, and Matt Spragg participating in his first event since joining the club, but especially Kevin getting back in after a long layoff from tournaments. I hope Matt and Nate soaked up every bit of knowledge that Kevin offered those 2 days, as he knows the bay as well as anyone. I also hope to see all 3 of these anglers at our future events!

Big fish Day 1 was Mitch Arville with a 6.36 lber, and Day 2 was Dan Vanmassenhove with a 6.97 lb hog that was also the biggest fish of the tournament.

Great work Guys!!!

Angler of the Year

Name	Points	Rank
Jon Kruttlin	99	1
Nate Gauthier	99	1
Eric Kruczynski	98	2
Gage Kruczynski	98	2
Matt Matuzak	98	2
Romeo Bourdage	97	3
Mark Haugerud	97	3
Matt Spragg	96	4
Dan VanMassenhove	91	5

Gary VanMassenhove	91	5
Matt Franklin	91	5
Jeff VanTorre	90	6
Eric Lenz	90	6
Chris Wade	89	7
Adam Peterson	89	7
Nick Bisanz	88	8
Bryan Kozlowski	87	9
Spencer Weidbrauk	86	10

Here's the standing for the AOY. These were some critical early points. Next event is Rock Port. Be sure to make it!!!

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...

Bubba Blade 110v corded electric fillet knife – I've tried nearly every electric fillet knife on the market and frankly haven't been satisfied with any of them...until now. This electric knife is amazing. It has an advanced cooling system that keeps the knife from over heating and also keeps it at maximum torque. It has a larger grip, but it is comfortable and definitely non-slip. The largest batches of fish I have cleaned at 1 time with it so far was 27 lake trout on one occasion, and 33 walleyes on another. During both of those sessions it cut the last fish as efficiently as the first. The pack I have comes with 4 blades and a case. The shorter flex blade is perfect on bay sized walleyes, the larger flex blade would be perfect for Lake Erie/Detroit River hogs. The two stiff blades are perfect for Lake Trout and Salmon. It has a hefty price tag at \$129.99 retail, but has the best performance I've found to date. If you're looking for an upgrade, I highly recommend it. Franks also has it on sale for \$100.

<https://www.bubba.com/knives/electric/110v-electric-corded-fillet-knife/1095704.html#start=1>

-Eric Kruczynski *President, TBWC...*

LED Tea Lights for Planer Boards – One of the reasons I've not fished longer into the night is the old process of breaking out glow sticks, cracking them open, and trying to find the best way to attach them to the boards. Instead of messing around with this, I have just called it a night when there was probably lots of good fishing to be had yet. I came across a video from Tom Boley (lots of great content on his YouTube channel) where he was using tea lights that were attached via Velcro to the top of his planer boards. In searching online you can buy a 12 pack for around \$9.00 in both green and red. I use red for port and green for starboard so on coming boats have a better which direction I'm going. Plus this

makes for easy board selection for each side. They are turned on and off by a simple twist. So if you want to try an alternative to purchasing bulk glow sticks, get some tea lights and some 3M Velcro and attach to the forward top of your boards.

<https://tableclothsfactory.com/products/123-pack-red-waterproof-battery-operated-submersible-led-lights-centerpieces>

<https://youtu.be/px8bBmocCWU>

-Jon Kruttlin *Vice President, TBWC...*

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!!!

The Nite Eyes recap filled in for the fishing report section this month. Those who pre-fished and fished the event learned even more. Fish are here in numbers now and the bay is flooded with fish from North to South. Fishing will continue to get better and better in the upcoming weeks. I highly recommend getting out as soon as possible and as much as possible to capitalize on the truly world class fishery. High water levels have changed some of the normal areas that fish hold. It has reset the historic spots and trolling lines. Only time on the water will help you learn these new areas where fish are now holding. Trolling meat in the inner bay will be very productive now in daylight hours, as will casting to shallower structure spots. Trolling cranks at night in shallower water (3-20 ft) will definitely produce the best numbers, however.

The shallow lake trout bite continues. I trolled one of my spots Sunday morning and my crew of 2 young ladies (6 and 11 years old) landed 19 nice trout in one pass. All 30 ft of water or less. Many anglers fishing walleyes in Nite Eyes caught several lake trout on walleye gear as well. As far as mixed bag fishing, its as good as it gets in the Alpena area right now.

Inland lakes are warming up. Fish are as active as they will be all year. Get them now before may fly hatches that are already starting will slow the bite. For you new guys...may fly hatches do not impact fish in Thunder Bay like they do on inland lakes. If your local bite slows, head to Thunder Bay!

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

2017 Warrior V208 – I'll be selling my boat soon, as my new rig is scheduled to arrive mid-July. 300 & 9.9 yami's (650 hrs), 36v Terrova, 3-9" Lowrance Carbons, Wave Pro 2.0s, Traxtech rod holders, Cannon Mag 10s, Trim Tabs, Marine Radio, and much more. You will be hard pressed to find a better rigged and performing boat for the great lakes, and it is always well cared for and garage stored. If anyone is seriously interested, please contact me. Eric Kruczynski (989) 766-0289

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

During this Covid19 pandemic, all businesses are having a very difficult time. Please show support for your fellow TBWC members!!! We all have a buying choice. I hope that each and everyone of our members consider buying from a fellow member to support them.

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.

Justin Champagne – Northern Dents

(877) 200-4245

Paintless Dent Removal.

Jeff Tucholski – Gator Bait Tackle

(989) 255-0336

Walleye Tackle Supplier and More...

Ed Reutherford – Trout Scout Charters

(989) 657-2681

Salmon, Trout, and Walleye Charters NE MI

Carl Hatalja – Crazy Carl's Sport Fishing

(989) 255-8744

Walleye, Trout, and Salmon Charters NE MI...Also Custom Rod Holders

Erich Carlson – Carlson Wildlife Art

(989) 464-5623

Hand painted, one of a kind, wildlife art.

Final Notes

- Stay Safe Everyone!!!!
- Get out on the Water!!! This is the time of year we've all been waiting for!!!

2019 AOY.....Mark Haugerud