

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

October 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: Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm Banquet Room of the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole**

Discussion Items:

- Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament
- Walleye Extravaganza and the Triple Crown Tournament
- TBWC Banquet...proposed date February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- TBWC Apparel

## Hubbard Lake Tournament Results

To say this one was a challenge was an understatement. A great late summer bite that was experienced by many, blew up just in time for our event. Fish were scattered everywhere. On top of that there was an over abundance of bait in the lake that had most fish filled up. But challenging fishing made for an exciting finish for our AOY race. All Jon Kruttlin had to do was catch a legal fish to win his first AOY. This bite made that normally simple task, very difficult.

First Place went to Eric Kruczynski, Gage Kruczynski, and Matt Matuzak. We fished numerous spots using a variety of techniques throughout the day. The three fish we landed for a total of 7.30 lbs came trolling snap weighted cranks. We caught 2 fish just north of the hardwoods in 45 fow. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> fish came in 40 fow further up in the north end.

Second Place went to Jon Kruttlin's team. They caught 2 fish for a total of 7.24 lbs trolling cranks. They also fished many places but the two fish they caught was in 20 fow near the hardwoods.

Third Place went to Adam Hume and Mike Karner. They caught two fish for 4.30 lbs casting lipless crank baits in 15-20 fow in the south end.

## Angler of the Year

Huge congratulations to Jon Kruttlin for winning his first AOY title! This was well deserved and long overdue IMO. Jon always fishes well in any event he enters. He does this with very little

time on the water over the course of the year due to family and work obligations. That makes his accomplishments extra impressive. Consistency is the key to winning AOY, especially with our Covid 19 shortened season. Jon did just that by taking second place in all 3 of our club events. Honorable mentions go to Matt Matuzak and myself, who finished second. Also, Dan Vanmassenhove, Gary Vanmassenhove, and Matt Franklin who finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All captains for the top 3 AOY finishers have also been granted invite to represent the TBWC in the NTC championship that will be held July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 in Oscoda. This is typically an \$80,000 ish first place prize and a full field.

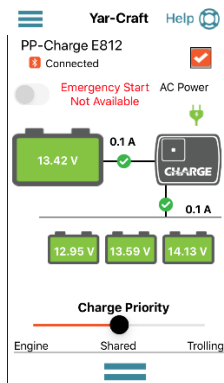
## New Gear Review

*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...*

## Power Pole Charge System

On my new boat, I elected to install a power pole charge system. This is Power Pole's onboard charger. Its different than any charger out there in that in addition to being a 5-bank plug in style charger, it also will charge your trolling motor batteries while under power with your big motor or kicker motor. This greatly extends your time on the water and life of your batteries as it prevents them from being run too low. This charge system also is a smart charger that hooks to a C-Monster app on your smart phone. This app shows the status for your batteries and your charger if you are within 100 ft or so of your boat. It allows you to select your battery type (wet cell, AGM, Gel, or Lithium) It also will allow you to jump start your big motor, from your bow mount batteries should your crank battery ever fail on the water.

Here's a look at the new C-Monster App:



I also decided to test the limitations of this system. I installed group 31 wet cell batteries for my bow mount and have a group 31 agm for my crank battery. I went 3 straight days of fishing without plugging my boat in. This included Sunday's Hubbard tournament as the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive day. By the end of Sunday, I still have 80% battery capacity on my trolling motor batteries. This system will extend your time on the water. This system is costly, however. Retail on this is right around \$1,100. For me, or anyone else that spends a lot of time on the water or cannot afford to have batteries fail during a tournament, this is well worth a look IMO.

## 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!!!*

Grand Lake, Long Lake, Lake Esau, Mullet Lake, and basically any lake with a good perch population is on fire right now. If you can find any green sand grass on these lakes, that is where the rusty cray fish populations will be congregated. The perch will be all over them. Minnows are the bait of choice. There is no better time than right now, to get out and catch the best meal you will eat all year.

Lakes that have turned over, have started some excellent walleye fishing. Shallower lakes normally flip first, so start on those and move to the deeper lakes after they have completed turn over. Generally, the nastier the weather the better the fishing is in the fall so do not be afraid to dress up and go after them. Walleyes will be primarily in 2 locations now. Shallow in the weeds, or deep on or near structure. I personally believe that the shallow fish are more aggressive and easier to catch, so I usually start there. A simple jig and a minnow are about the most deadly and consistent bait to catch fish this time of year. Fish are generally schooled up tight on a very precise spot. Use your electronics to locate them before you attempt to catch them. Side scan is always valuable but is worth its weight in gold this time of year.

Hold off putting those boats away and go capitalize on some amazing fishing that can be had this time of year.

## Classifieds

*Please email me: [Eric.Kruczynski@yahoo.com](mailto: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*

Nothing this month.

## **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 every one 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, and a full line of associated OMC parts, and supplies. Sells and installs all major name brand electronics. Also sells Wave Pro suspension seats!

**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**

Please try to be at our meeting next week. We have many important things to discuss and get voter approval on.

**2020 AOY.....Jon Kruttlin**