

Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

August 2020

P.O. Box 812, Alpena, MI 49707

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|----------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|
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Next Meeting: Postponed until Governor Whitmer Relaxes Meeting Restrictions

Last Meeting Recap

September Meeting was canceled. October meeting will have to be canceled too unfortunately.

Update from the Pres...

I can't believe September got away from me. Frankly its just been a crazy month for my son and I and I whole heartedly apologize for a delay on this newsletter. The start of the month was the annual Rogers City Fat Hogs Salmon tournament. My son and I decided to enter last minute not knowing if our new Yar-Craft 219tfx would be ready to fish in time. Fortunately it was by the skin of our teeth and we entered. Despite being handicapped with only a 2-man crew we managed to scratch out a 12th place finish out of 55 boats (record high for this event). Huge congrats to TBWC members Jeff Tucholski and Curtis Zubal however...as they pulled off the win in this event!!! Great job guys!!!



September 12 marked the first day of youth deer season. Congrats to all the successful youth hunters out there! My son Gage was among those that were successful managed to score the morning of the 13th on a nice NE MI buck! Gage does all his own scouting and prep now and Dad just gets to tag along for the hunts now. Dad is proud of you Gage!



September 13 marked the opening of bear season for the Red Oak area that encompasses NE MI. I hunt with a group that runs hounds and we also help friends set up and run baits. Our group had a personal record tying season with 7 bears harvested. 5 with hounds and 2 over bait. It was an amazing season. A few other TBWC members joined us on hunts and were successful. TBWC Member Nick Gabara took this gorgeous boar that dressed out at 255 lbs.



Brady Carlson and Dad Erich got to experience some exciting hound action and Brady made a perfect, high pressure shot on an old dry sow that weighted 199 lbs dressed. Huge congrats to Brady and his Dad!!!



TBWC Board Member Jeremy Phillips also got to experience a few great bear chases and managed to score on this 150 lb boar with a nice chevron. Congrats to Jeremy!!!



While not hunting with our group, TBWC member Matt Franklin shot a really nice bear that dressed out at 250 lbs also. Huge congrats to you as well Matt!!!



Jon Kruttlin made his way to Colorado and scored a great mule deer buck. Congrats Jon, I'm jealous!



Unfortunately, after bear season I fell ill (non Covid) and had to take a break until the last day of the month. Gage, I and his buddy made it out for some perch action, and it didn't disappoint!



Fall fishing is in full swing now. If you can take a break from hunting, there is some amazing fishing to be had. See you all on the water!

MWC Team of the Year

AOY, Team of the year, are by far an away the most coveted trophy of any walleye angler in any tournament series. Anglers must make near perfect decisions on multiple bodies of waters over a whole season to pull this off. I couldn't be prouder to say that our own Adam Hume and Mike Karner pulled off this coveted title in the MWC series this year. Huge congratulations guys!!! Keep up the great work!!!

NTC Comes to Oscoda

TBWC Members owe a huge thanks to our VP Jon Kruttlin. Thanks to his efforts and awareness TBWC and its members have a unique opportunity to fish an NTC championship. Press release:

<https://walleyefederation.com/the-20th-bass-pro-shops-and-cabelas-national-team-championship-set-for-lake-huron-at-ausable-oscoda-michigan-july-2021/>

TBWC is a registered club with the NTC. To compete in the NTC championship next July, you will need to do the following:

1. Be a paid TBWC member in 2020 and 2021. Cost is \$15/yr individual or \$25/yr household.
2. Be a paid NTC member in 2020 and 2021. Cost is \$41.20/yr.
3. Take top 3 in TBWC AOY Race. NTC has given us 3 guaranteed spots in the championship Top 3 AOY finishers will be granted the right to go. If any of the top 3 choose to not take the invite, it will be passed on down the line in order of AOY places until all 3 are accepted.
4. If you do not win the right to get one of these coveted guaranteed spots, and still want to fish the NTC, there is still hope! Typically, the NTC has additional spots it offers to

ensure it has a full field. There is no guarantee, but typically additional spots (sometimes 15 or more) are granted to the registered clubs in the host area. We anticipate this will be the case for next years NTC championship. Once awarded spots TBWC will again resume the process of offering it to AOY place finishers. So even if you didn't compete this year for TBWC AOY thus far in 2020, we highly recommend fishing our October 11th tournament on Hubbard Lake. This one finish will get you an AOY place which is required to get an NTC offer.

This will make the Hubbard tournament very interesting and should have a great turn out. SBWC did not have a tournament season this year or AOY and therefore is not being offered any invites to the NTC to our knowledge at this present time. Many SBWC members may decide to fish Hubbard in hopes of eventually getting an NTC championship invite. Pretty cool stuff IMO. Nice work Jon! I hope TBWC represents itself well in next year's NTC championship!

Angler of the Year

Next Tournament is at Hubbard Lake. Sunday October 11th, 8a-4p. Please note the time change due to it being dark still at 7:00am now...

| 2020 | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|-----|---|-------|------|
| TBWC AOY | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | Total | Rank |
| John Kruttlin | 99 | 99 | | 198 | 1 |
| Eric Kruczynski | 98 | 93 | | 191 | 2 |
| Matt Matuzak | 98 | 93 | | 191 | 2 |
| Nate Cosbitt | 96 | 95 | | 191 | 2 |
| Chris Wade | 88 | 100 | | 188 | 3 |
| Adam Peterson | 88 | 100 | | 188 | 3 |
| Dan VanMassenhove | 91 | 94 | | 185 | 4 |
| Gary Van Massenhove | 91 | 94 | | 185 | 4 |
| Matt Franklin | 91 | 94 | | 185 | 4 |
| Nick Bisanz | 88 | 96 | | 184 | 5 |
| Zach Bisanz | 88 | 96 | | 184 | 5 |

Here's the standing for the AOY. Awesome job by John Kruttlin again. Consistency wins AOY and with 2 second places, John has been perfectly consistent thus far. Also, excellent work by young blood Nate Cosbitt! Keep after it Nate!!! Next and final event is Hubbard Lake in September. Hope to see you all there!

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...

Yar-Craft 219tfx

Got my new boat just before labor-day. Despite taking most of September off from fishing, I've managed to get 28 hrs on the main motor so I've got a good feel for it and thought it would make for a nice review. So far I'm happy with the boat. I miss a few things from my Warrior, but gladly welcome many things I've gained on the new Yar. If anyone is interested in buying one, please contact me and I'll happily arrange some time so you can see/drive mine.

In summary: Fit and finish on this boat is excellent. Best I've seen to date from any manufacture. Every compartment, under the cap, and even the bilge area is finished fiberglass. It's the strongest hull I've ever been on. They bond the cap to the stringers on this model and attach the cap with huge rivets every 1.5" instead of screws. Its just solid. It tracks like its on rails. Best tracking boat I've ever been on period. Storage is huge. Love the raised front casting deck, along with the embossed seadek. It cuts waves excellent and is a dry riding boat (not as dry as my warrior but very dry none the less). Its fast. I'm getting 8 mph more top end speed than I did with my Warrior which will help with increased fuel efficiency. I did lose close to 16" of open cock pit space, which is definitely a change for me. But I managed ok salmon fishing with it and that requires more cockpit space than any other type of fishing I do. All and all, very happy with my purchase.

I have some new cutting edge gear installed on this boat, but I'll save that for future reviews. Any questions, let me know I'll be happy to answer.

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!!!

If you have them...please submit. I will be doing the next newsletter soon...

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

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 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, 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

Covid 19 has changed a lot of things...but it hasn't changed the season fish migration patterns. Look in your normal fall spots and you will find um. It's not easy with hunting season's now upon us, but some of the best fishing of the entire year is from now until ice up. See you out there!

2019 AOY.....Mark Haugerud