



Trout Talk

The Voice of the
Grand Rapids Steelheaders

ISSUE #404 FEBRUARY 2008
PUBLISHER/EDITOR: DAVE NOWICKI
ASSISTANT EDITOR: GINNY NOWICKI

GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER MEETING – MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2008 – 7:30 PM
SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 – 7:30 PM

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

SCOTT MACDONALD

SCOTT WILL BE PRESENT A PROGRAM ON THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL FISHING PROGRAM. HE WILL EXPLAIN WHEN AND WHERE THE TOURNAMENTS ARE GOING TO BE HELD THIS YEAR. SEE ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFO.

DAVE HILDENBRAND 86TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

DAVE WILL PRESENT A BRIEF PROGRAM ON THE FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSE ISSUES.

SPORT SHOW INFORMATION IN THIS ISSUE

OUR CHAPTERS FUND RAISER, WE NEED THE HELP OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP ON THIS PROJECT

SOCIAL HOUR IS FROM 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM WITH REFRESHMENTS AND LITE LUNCH. THE MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM. BRING YOUR UNUSED FISHING TACKLE TO SELL AT THE SWAP TABLE. *BRING YOUR FAMILY, FISHING BUDDIES, SIGNUP A NEW MEMBER.* SEE YOU ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2008.

NOTE:

IF YOU NEED A MEMBERSHIP CARD, ATTEND A MEMBERSHIP MEETING OR SEND A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO THE CHAPTER POST OFFICE BOX LISTED IN THIS ISSUE.
IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE YOUR CARD WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -----DAVE NOWICKI-----616-532-7727
VICE PRESIDENT-----STEVE HEINTZELMAN-616-791-7009
V.P./TREASURER ---- BOB STREK-----616-453-3109
SECRETARY -----BOB WINKELS -----616-361-9732

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DAVID ANDERSON-----PROGRAMS-----616-791-7049
BOB ANTZAK -----YR.FISH CONTEST-----616-895-6874
AL DAVIS-----CLOTHING-----616-363-3564
CHRIS EDWARDS-----MEMBERSHIP-----616-863-6943
DICK GROMKO -----MEETING PREP.-----616-455-1336
KRIS GUILLES-----MUCC,GRANTS-----616-677-3442
MIKE HARVEY-----RIVER CONTESTS-----616-890-7662
BUD POTTS-----SALMON IN SCHOOLS---616-453-5812

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

BRIAN BOOMSMA-----RAFFLES-----616-538-4494
BILL NEWELL-----MEETING GREETER-----616-897-6949

SPECIAL CHAPTER FUNCTIONS

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MEMBER BENEFITS----RENEE DAVIS-----616-363-3564
NET PENS-----MIKE HARVEY-----616-890-7662
NEWSLETTER-----DAVE NOWICKI-----616-532-7727
PAST PRESIDENT-----TONY NIKODEMSKI---616-363-7833
SPRING SHOW-----DAVE NOWICKI-----616-532-7727
STATE DIR.-----CHRIS EDWARDS-----616-863-6943

GRAND RAPIDS STEELHEADERS FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT/MARKETING--NORM VANSICKLE---616-532-5845
V.P./SEC/TREASURE---VIKKI GUILLES-----616-677-3442
DIRECTOR-----TOM BEREZA-----616-784-0490
DIRECTOR-----MARTIN KUKS-----616-784-3068
DIRECTOR-----HENRY ZEMAN-----616-453-1554

CHAPTER MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH, AUGUST THRU JUNE. SOCIAL HOUR 6:30-7:30 PM. THE MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 PM. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM. MEMBER CONCERNS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO A BOARD MEMBER FOR DISCUSSION AT A BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS. ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT DIAMOND AVENUE HALL, 435 DIAMOND AVENUE N.E. DIAMOND AVENUE IS THREE BLOCKS WEST OF FULLER AVENUE, OFF MICHIGAN STREET. GO NORTH ON DIAMOND ONE BLOCK.

EDITORS NOTE

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE PUBLISHED IN THE "TROUT TALK", SEND IT TO US BY THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE IT PUBLISHED. SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO DAVE NOWICKI, 2471 ANCIENT S.W., WYOMING, MICHIGAN, 49519 OR CALL 616-532-7727, OR E-MAIL polander@hotmail.com

THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER OF THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION. THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EACH MONTH AND IS PROVIDED FREE TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER. ADVERTISEMENTS FOR TRAVEL, INSURANCE & CREDIT CARD (FINANCIAL) AGENCIES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. ALL CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE COPYRIGHT BY THE GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER. PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO ALL MSSFA CHAPTERS FOR THE USE OF ALL EDITORIAL MATERIALS CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION. ALL GRAPHIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES ARE SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE ARTIST OR PHOTOGRAPHER.

ATTENTION

CHECK THE FIRST LINE OF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. IF IT IS DATED BEFORE THIS MONTH AND YEAR, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED. IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, YOU ARE NO LONGER AN ACTIVE MEMBER, AND CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN CHAPTER EVENTS THAT REQUIRE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE USE THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BELOW TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU DON'T NEED TO USE THE APPLICATION AT THIS TIME, MAYBE A FISHING BUDDY OF YOURS CAN. REMEMBER THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS
GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 1474
GRAND RAPIDS, MI. 49501

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ AMOUNT \$30.00

PHONE _____
AREA CODE _____

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL
\$30.00 \$30.00

SENIOR RENEWAL NEW SENIOR
\$20.00 \$30.00

REFERRED BY _____

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WE PUBLISH 11 ISSUES EACH YEAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING, PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVE NOWICKI
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WYOMING, MI. 49519
PHONE: 616-532-7727

E-MAIL: polander@hotmail.com

VISIT US AT: mssfa.com GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER

SPORT SHOW TICKETS

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE SPORT SHOW IS OUR CHAPTERS ONLY FUND RAISER. THE MONEY WE RAISE FROM THIS SHOW MAKES ALL THE CHAPTER EVENTS AND OUTINGS POSSIBLE. THE ONE WAY WE CAN INCREASE OUR PROFIT IS TO HAVE ALL MEMBERS SELL THE DISCOUNT TICKETS THAT THE CHAPTER SELLS. SURE THE ECONOMY IS DOWN, HOWEVER PEOPLE ARE ATTENDING SHOWS. YOU CAN SELL THEM A DISCOUNT TICKET AND SAVE THEM SOME MONEY AND ALSO MAKE MONEY FOR THE CHAPTER. WE NEED ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO SELL THESE TICKETS.

CHAPTER DUES DO NOT COVER THE COST OF BEING A MEMBER. OF THE \$30.00 YOU PAY FOR DUES, ONLY \$5.00 STAYS WITH THE CHAPTER. THE OTHER \$25.00 GOES TO THE STATE ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT ISSUES WITH FISH PLANTS, DNR RESOURCES, ETC. NOW YOU CAN SEE WHY WE NEED TO SELL THESE TICKETS. THIS MONEY RUNS THE CHAPTER FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR. SO PLEASE TRY TO SELL AS MANY TICKETS THAT YOU CAN. SEE THE RELATED ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER ON THE BENEFITS OF SELLING TICKETS. YOU COULD WIN A LARGE PRIZE, PLUS YOU CAN MAKE SOME MONEY FOR YOURSELF.

IN CONCLUSION, SELL THE TICKETS TO CO-WORKERS, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS. SAVE THEM SOME MONEY ON ATTENDING THE BEST SPORT SHOW IN THIS STATE AND HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER.

FISHING PARTNERS

THE CHAPTER HAS AS FISHING PARTNERS PROGRAM, TO GET MEMBERS TO FISH WITH OTHER MEMBERS, AND TO HELP NEW MEMBERS GET INVOLVED WITH THE CHAPTER. TO GET STARTED IN THE PROGRAM WE NEED YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND THE TIMES THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO FISH. DO YOU HAVE A BOAT? NEED A PARTNER FOR THE RIVER, LAKE, ETC, NEED A CREW MEMBER FOR YOUR BOAT, NEED A MEMBER TO FISH A CHAPTER OUTING, TEACH NEW MEMBERS HOW TO CATCH STEELHEAD AND SALMON, ABLE TO TAKE OTHER MEMBERS OUT FISHING. CONTACT STEVE HEINTZELMAN AT 616-791-7009. STEVE WILL PUT MEMBERS TOGETHER SO THEY CAN LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES AND MEET OTHER CHAPTER MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT STEVE AT THE ABOVE PHONE NUMBER.

ATTENTION

CHECK THE FIRST LINE OF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. IF IT IS DATED BEFORE THIS MONTH AND YEAR, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED. IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, YOU ARE NO LONGER AN ACTIVE MEMBER, AND CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN CHAPTER EVENTS THAT REQUIRE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

FREE MEMBERSHIPS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE WON FREE MEMBERSHIPS IN THE PAST YEAR BY ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OR WORKING AT THE SPORT SHOW.

JANUARY 2008	ROBERTA TAYLOR
FEBRUARY 2007	JOHN STAUFFER
SPORT SHOW 2007	GARY MOORE, BOB FIEBIG, RICK LEWIS, BOB BLASKIS, BOB SCHULTZ, SUZI MERDZINSKI, CHRIS EDWARDS, BUD POTTS, JIM LARSEN, TONY NIKODEMSKI, JOE MAKI, JOHN BALL
MARCH 2007	DAVE VANMALE
APRIL 2007	DAVE HARDING
MAY 2007	GARY HARVEY
JUNE 2007	ANDY WISNIEWSKI
AUGUST 2007	BOB WINKELS
SEPTEMBER 2007	JEFF KEIZER
OCTOBER 2007	GERALD BOELEMA
NOVEMBER 2007	PHIL BOLEK

ATTEND THE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, INCREASE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A MEMBERSHIP.

GRSF TRUCK RAFFLE

THE GRAND RAPIDS STEELHEADER FOUNDATION IS HAVING A RAFFLE ON A NEW 2008 CHEVY TRUCK. THERE ARE ONLY 800 TICKETS TO BE SOLD. TICKETS COST \$50 EACH, AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM NORM VAN SICKLE, VIKKI GULES. THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE SPORT, FISHING AND TRAVEL SHOW IN MARCH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL TICKETS CONTACT NORM OR VIKKI.



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2008 ULTIMATE SPORT & RV SHOW INFORMATION

THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE IS A REFRESHER FOR THE MEMBERSHIPS HELP WITH THE SPORT SHOW.

THE ULTIMATE SPORT & RV SHOW IS MARCH 13-16, 2008 AT DEVOS PLACE. THIS SHOW IS **OUR CHAPTERS ONLY FUNDRAISER FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR**. HELP FROM OUR **ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP** MAKES THIS PROJECT A GREAT FUNDRAISER. FOR THOSE THAT ARE NEW TO THE CHAPTER, AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS FOR YEARS, I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN HOW YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.

THIS MONTH AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING WE WILL HAVE DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR MEMBERS TO SELL TO THE SHOW. WE HAVE ADULT AND CHILDRENS TICKETS. A PORTION OF EACH TICKET THAT YOU SELL GOES DIRECTLY TO OUR CHAPTER. THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE MONEY FOR YOUR CHAPTER. ADULT TICKETS ARE \$9.00 AT THE DOOR. OUR ADULT TICKETS ARE \$7.00. CHILD TICKETS (AGES 6-14) ARE \$4.00 AT THE DOOR. OUR CHILD TICKETS ARE \$3.00. CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE. THESE TICKETS ARE GOOD EVERYDAY OF THE SHOW. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE EXCHANGED AT THE BOX OFFICE. NO WAITING IN LINE TO GET IN. YOU CAN SELL THESE TICKETS AT WORK, TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, STRANGERS, ETC. THEY ARE VERY EASY TO SELL, IF THE BUYER REALIZES THEY ARE SAVING \$2.00 ON EACH ADULT TICKET. THE TICKETS ARE IN GROUPS OF 10, PLUS AN EXTRA TICKET THAT YOU CAN KEEP OR SELL AND KEEP \$7.00 IF YOU SELL THE 10 TICKETS. WHEN YOU TURN IN THE ENVELOPE THAT YOU RECEIVED THE TICKETS IN, WITH THE MONEY FOR 10 TICKETS, THE ENVELOPE WILL BE PUT INTO A DRAWING FOR A \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE. THERE WILL BE FOUR WINNERS. THE DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING. IF YOU NEED TICKETS/POSTERS CONTACT DAVE NOWICKI 616-532-7727 OR BOB STREK 616-453-3109.

THE NEXT PART OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SHOW IS PROVIDING SECURITY AT THE DOORS, AND GIVING INFORMATION AT AN INFORMATION BOOTH. THERE ARE DAILY CHAIRMEN FOR EACH DAY THAT HANDLE SCHEDULING. THE CHAIRMEN ARE, THURSDAY IRV BYXBE 616-678-4780 CO-CHAIRMAN DICK GROMKO 455-1336, FRIDAY/SATURDAY BOB STREK 616-453-3109. SUNDAY NORM VAN SICKLE 532-5845. THERE WILL BE SIGN UP SHEETS AT THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS TO SIGN UP TO WORK. SIGN UP EARLY TO GET THE HOURS YOU WANT.

THE CHAPTER DOES THE FISH CLEANING FOR THE TROUT POND AT THE SHOW. THE CHAIRMAN IS PRESTON KUKS 451-3603, CO-CHAIRMAN JOHN BALL 887-1634. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO CLEAN FISH, AS THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS IN THE FISH CLEANING BOOTH THAT DO NOT REQUIRE CLEANING. HOWEVER ANYONE WITH FISH CLEANING SKILLS IS ASKED TO HELP CLEAN. THERE WILL BE FOOD AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS THAT WORK AT THE SHOW. RENEE DAVIS IS THE CHAIRLADY FOR THE KITCHEN. IF YOU CAN HELP IN THE KITCHEN OR WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A DISH OF FOOD CONTACT RENEE AT 363-3564. AGAIN THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE A FISH CONTEST FOR THE ENTIRE SHOW. ANYONE THAT BRINGS IN A FRESHLY CAUGHT FISH (NOT FROM THE TROUT POND) WILL BE ENTERED INTO A CONTEST FOR THE LARGEST FISH. IF YOU ARE FISHING THE RIVER, JUST BRING YOUR FISH TO THE EXHIBITORS ENTRANCE AT DEVOS PLACE AND TELL THEM YOU ARE TAKING IT TO THE STEELHEADERS FISH CLEANING BOOTH. SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO SIGN UP TO WORK.

WE ALSO HAVE A MEMBERSHIP BOOTH. IN THE BOOTH WE SELL MEMBERSHIPS, RAFFLE TICKETS, RENEW MEMBERSHIPS, BUILD AND SELL SPINNERS, TYE SPAWN SACKS, INFORM POTENTIAL MEMBERS ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS PROGRAM, AND EXPLAIN WHAT THE CLUB IS ALL ABOUT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN THIS AREA CONTACT DAVE NOWICKI OR BOB STREK AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS.

WE ALSO SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE SHOW. STEVE HEINTZELMAN 616-791-7009 IS THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE RAFFLE TICKET SALES. TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH OR 7 FOR \$5.00 AND ARE ONLY SOLD AT THE SHOW. PRIZES ARE- A CHARTER FISHING TRIP, 2 NASCAR TICKETS TO THE JUNE 15, 2008 RACE, \$150 CASH. THE GRAND RAPIDS STEELHEADER FOUNDATION (A DIVISION OF OUR CHAPTER) ALSO IS SELLING TICKETS FOR A NEW 2008 CHEVY TRUCK. TICKETS ARE \$50 EACH. WE ALSO NEED YOUR HELP SELLING THESE TICKETS.

GENERAL INFORMATION - WHEN YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO WORK AT THE SHOW, YOUR PARKING, ADMISSION TO THE SHOW, AND CHAPTER SUPPLIED REFRESHMENTS ARE ALL SUPPLIED TO YOU AT NO COST. YOU MUST HAVE A SCHEDULED TIME AND PLACE TO WORK FOR THE CHAPTER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS. WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT DEVOS PLACE, USE THE EXHIBITORS ENTRANCE, A BADGE WILL BE THERE. YOU MAY NEED TO SHOW I.D. YOU MUST SIGN IN AT THE MEMBERSHIP BOOTH WHEN YOU ARRIVE, AND SIGN OUT WHEN YOU LEAVE. BRING YOUR DATED PARKING LOT RECEIPT TO THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND GET YOUR PARKING PAID FOR.

A DAILY MEMBERSHIP DRAWING IS HELD FOR SECURITY/INFORMATION BOOTHS, MEMBERSHIP BOOTH/RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS, FISH CLEANING/KITCHEN WORKERS. FOR EACH HOUR THAT A MEMBER WORKS IN AN AREA FOR THE CHAPTER, THEIR NAME IS PUT INTO A DRAWING FOR THAT AREA FOR A YEARLY MEMBERSHIP (STATE AND CHAPTER). YOU CAN ONLY WIN ONE MEMBERSHIP PER YEAR. IF YOUR NAME IS DRAWN FOR A SECOND TIME YOU WILL BE ISSUED A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO A LOCAL SPORT SHOP. THIS IS ONLY AT THE SHOW DRAWING. AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING A GRAND PRIZE DRAWING WILL BE HELD FOR EACH AREA.

WHERE CAN YOU GO TO GET ALL THIS AT NO COST? -PLUS YOU ARE HELPING **YOUR CHAPTER ONE TIME A YEAR**. SELL TICKETS, SIGN UP TO WORK, OR IF YOU ARE CALLED BY ONE OF THE CHAIRMEN, PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP. YOU WILL GET FREE ADMISSION TO THE ENTIRE SHOW, FREE PARKING, FREE REFRESHMENTS AND FOOD, PLUS MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS IN YOUR CHAPTER, AND HELPING SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER.

REMEMBER - SELL AS MANY DISCOUNT TICKETS AS YOU CAN, HELP WITH SECURITY. INFORMATION BOOTH, MEMBERSHIP BOOTH, RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS, FISH CLEANING, KITCHEN. YOU WILL ENJOY WORKING THIS SHOW.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT DAVE NOWICKI 616-532-7727, OR BOB STREK 616-453-3109.

THE YEAR LONG SMALL FRY FISHING CONTEST

FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS UP TO 15 YEARS OLD WHO'S PARENTS/RELATIVES/GUARDIANS ARE SIGNED UP WITH BOB ANTZAK IN THE YEAR LONG FISHING CONTEST. THESE SMALL FRY'S ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER FISH OF ALL SPECIES CAUGHT ON THE BIG LAKE, INLAND LAKES, AND ANY RIVERS.

RULES ARE:

- 1) PARENTS/RELATIVES/GUARDIANS MUST BE SIGNED UP IN THE YEAR LONG BIG LAKE AND RIVER CONTEST WITH BOB ANTZAK. CALL BOB TO ENTER AT 616-895-6874 OR SEE HIM AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. THE CONTEST RUNS FROM DECEMBER 1, CURRENT YEAR TO NOVEMBER 30 FOLLOWING YEAR. COST IS \$5.00 PER FAMILY.
- 2) ALL FISH CAUGHT MUST BE WEIGHTED TO ENTER. ANY SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT CAN BE ENTERED.
- 3) ON A POSTCARD OR CARD PLEASE TELL US WHEN AND WHERE THE FISH WAS CAUGHT, INCLUDE PHOTO IF YOU HAVE ONE, AND MOST IMPORTANT HOW MUCH IT WEIGHED. PARENTS/RELATIVES/GUARDIANS MUST SIGN POST CARD OR CARD.
- 4) ALL SMALL FRY ENTRY'S NAMES WILL BE POSTED IN THE TROUT TALK NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH.
- 5) PRIZE TROPHY'S FOR THE LARGEST FISH AND 2ND PLACE LARGEST FISH IN ALL CATEGORIES WINS TROPHY AT THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING. ALL ENTRIES, WIN OR LOSE WILL RECEIVE A PARTICIPANT RIBBON. PHOTOS ARE AN OPTION BUT I HEARD TO TELL THE EDITOR OF TROUT TALK SAYS DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SEE YOUR PICTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TROUT TALK WITH YOUR CATCH.

- 6) SEND ALL ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO

AL DAVIS
1950 GRAND RIVER DRIVE
ADA, MI. 49301
616-363-3564

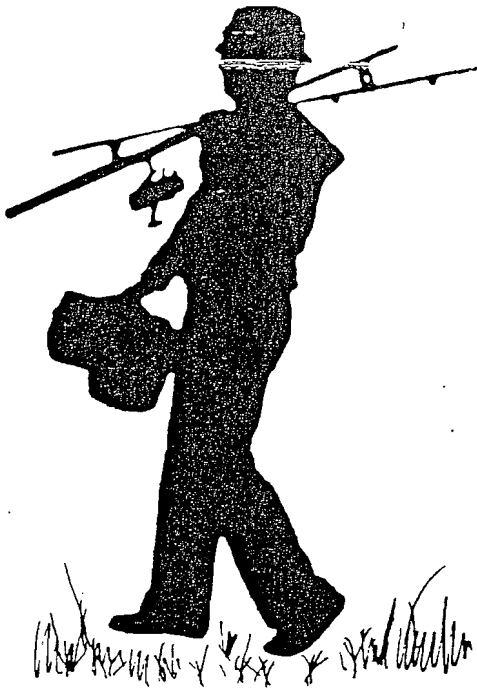
- 7) THE 2008 CONTEST BEGINS DECEMBER 1, 2007 AND ENDS ON NOVEMBER 30, 2008.

2008 SMALL FRY CONTEST ENTRIES

NO ENTRIES IN THE 2008 CONTEST



2007 SMALL FRY CONTEST WINNERS:
BLAKE HENDRICK, D.J. TAYLOR
ZACK STREK, CHRISTIAN MERDZINSKI



EVERGLADE
Johnson

YAMAHA

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YEARLY CHAPTER FISH CONTEST

BIG LAKE

STEELHEAD -	NO ENTRY
BROWN TROUT -	NO ENTRY
LAKE TROUT -	NO ENTRY
COHO -	NO ENTRY
CHINOOK -	NO ENTRY
WALLEYE -	NO ENTRY

RIVER

STEELHEAD -	JON HENDRICK	10-06
BROWN TROUT -	NO ENTRY	
LAKE TROUT -	NO ENTRY	
COHO -	NO ENTRY	
CHINOOK -	NO ENTRY	
WALLEYE -	BOB ANTZAK	03-13

TO ENTER THE 2008 CONTEST CONTACT BOB ANTZAK AT 616-895-6874. THE ENTRY FEE IS \$5.00 FOR BOTH DIVISIONS AND INCLUDES THE ENTIRE FAMILY. SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO BOB AT 10377 WHITEWOOD DR. WEST OLIVE, MI. 49460. REMEMBER TO ENTER EVERY FISH YOU CATCH, IT MAY BE A BIG WINNER.

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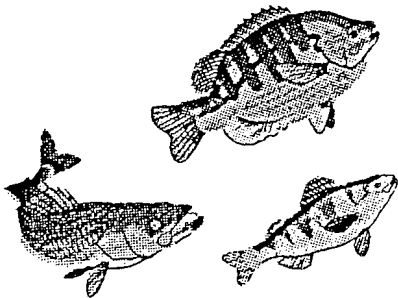
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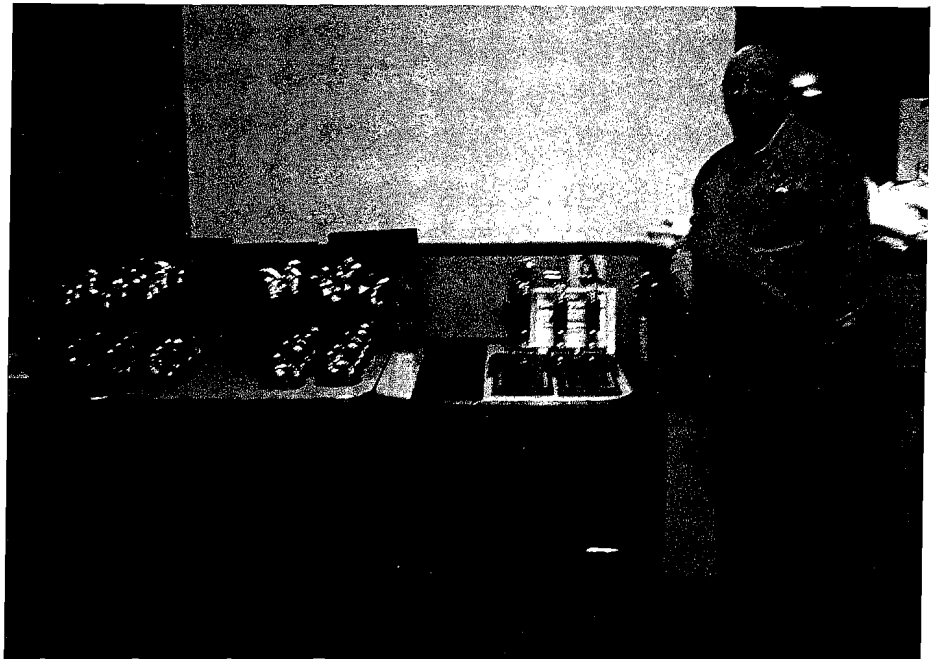
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Steelheaders



BOB ANTZAK GETTING READY TO AWARD THE 2007 YEARLY FISH CONTEST TROPHIES

GRAND RAPIDS STEELHEADERS 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY	25 MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM/SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 PM - DIAMOND HALL
MARCH	3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 7:30 PM DIAMOND HALL 13-16 SPORT, FISHING, AND RV SHOW - DEVOS PLACE 13-15 SPORT, FISHING AND RV SHOW FISHING CONTEST 29 CHAPTER SWAP MEET 31 MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM/SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 PM - DIAMOND HALL
APRIL	5 SPRING RIVER CONTEST 6:00 AM, GRAND, ROGUE, MUSKEGON RIVERS 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 7:30 PM DIAMOND HALL 21 REGION II MEETING 7:00 PM AT SOUTH HAVEN 28 MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM/SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 PM - DIAMOND HALL
MAY	3 CHAPTER FISHING LEAGUE BEGINS 5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 7:30 PM DIAMOND HALL 17 CHAPTER BIG LAKE CONTEST - GRAND HAVEN 6:00 AM 19 MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM/SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 PM - DIAMOND HALL

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2008

1. PRESIDENT DAVE NOWICKI CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:30 P.M.
2. NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS WERE WELCOMED.
3. FISHING REPORTS WERE SHARED.
4. THE SALMON IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM IS GOING WELL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF BUD POTTS.
5. NORM VAN SICKLE REPORTED ON THE GRSF TRUCK RAFFLE.
6. STEVE HEINTZELMAN GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE MARCH 29 SWAP MEET.
7. THE SPRING RIVER CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON THE GRAND, MUSKEGON, ROGUE RIVERS ON APRIL 5, 2008. CONTACT BOB STREK OR BILL NEWELL TO ENTER.
8. CHRIS EDWARDS OUTLINED THE ICE FISHING OUTING ON REEDS LAKE SET FOR FEBRUARY 9.
9. BOB STREK GAVE A TREASURER'S REPORT AND ASKED FOR MEMBERS TO SELL DISCOUNT SPORT SHOW TICKETS. WE NEED EVERY MEMBER TO SELL TICKETS. THIS IS OUR ONLY FUND RAISER FOR THE YEAR.
10. DAVE NOWICKI INTRODUCED THE CHAIRMEN FOR THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE SPORT SHOW. DAVE OUTLINED WHAT IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS. LOTS OF HELP FROM THE MEMBERSHIP.
11. BUD POTTS WAS PRESENTED THE "STEELHEADER OF THE YEAR" AWARD FOR ALL HIS EXTRA EFFORTS WITH THE CHAPTER.
12. AL DAVIS PRESENTED THE SMALL FRY CONTEST WINNERS WITH TROPHIES AND CERTIFICATES.
13. BOB ANTZAK PRESENTED TROPHIES AND CASH AWARDS IN THE YEARLY FISH CONTEST.
14. BOB STREK PRESENT TROPHIES TO THE WINNERS OF THE BIG LAKE CONTEST AND ALSO FOR THE SPRING AND FALL RIVER CONTESTS.
15. DAVE VAN MALE PRESENTED THE BUCK CONTEST AWARDS.
16. THE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING WAS HELD AND THE WINNER WAS ROBERTA TAYLOR.
17. THE 50/50 DRAWING AND TACKLE WERE HELD.
18. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:05.

VIKKI GUILLES, ACTING SECRETARY



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVE NOWICKI, BOB STREK, STEVE HEINTZELMAN, BUD POTTS, BILL NEWELL, KRIS GUILLES, DAVE ANDERSON, TONY NIKODEMSKI, CHRIS EDWARDS, BOB ANTZAK. ABSENT EXCUSED BOB WINKELS, DICK GROMKO, AL DAVIS. ABSENT MIKE HARVEY, BRIAN BOOMSMA. MEMBERS PRESENT: IRV BYXBE, NORM VAN SICKLE, JOHN STAUFFER, PRESTON KUKS, JIM LARSEN, VIKKI GUILLES.

1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 BY PRESIDENT DAVE NOWICKI.
2. A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S REPORT AS PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER.
3. BOB STREK GAVE A TREASURER'S REPORT AND IT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.
4. BOB ANTZAK GAVE A YEARLY FISH CONTEST REVIEW.
5. STEVE HEINTZELMAN REPORTED ON RAFFLES AND PRIZES.
6. THE NET PEN PROJECT WILL BE HANDLED BY BOB STREK AND ANY MEMBERS THAT WANT TO WORK ON THE PROJECT. CONTACT BOB STREK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
7. DAVE ANDERSON GAVE A REPORT ON PROGRAMS AND MINI CLINICS. NEED INPUT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ON WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE.
8. KRIS GUILLES COVERED MUCC ISSUES.
9. CHRIS EDWARDS GAVE A MEMBERSHIP UPDATE. MEMBERSHIP IS DOWN. NEED TO GET MORE OF OUR FISHING FRIENDS INVOLVED IN THE CLUB.
10. BUD POTTS REPORTED ON THE SALMON IN SCHOOLS PROJECT.
11. NORM VAN SICKLE AND VIKKI GUILLES GAVE AN UP DATE ON THE GRAND RAPIDS STEELHEADER FOUNDATION AND THE TRUCK RAFFLE.
12. DAVE NOWICKI, BOB STREK, BUD POTTS GAVE A STATE REPORT. NEWSPAPER ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED.
13. CHRIS EDWARDS GAVE A REPORT ON THE CORMORANT PROBLEM.
14. STEVE HEINTZELMAN REPORTED ON THE UPCOMING SWAP MEET.
15. NORM VAN SICKLE RECAPPED THE RV SHOW.
16. CHRIS EDWARDS IS HOSTING THE ICE FISHING OUTING ON FEBRUARY 9.
17. BOARD NOMINATIONS ARE SET FOR THE ELECTION.
18. THE SPRING RIVER CONTEST WILL BE HOSTED BY BILL NEWELL AND BOB STREK.
19. THE SPORT SHOW WAS DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL. MANY LOOSE ENDS WERE TIED UP.
20. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10.

VIKKI GUILLES, ACTING SECRETARY

SPRING GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER RIVER RULES

1. DATE: APRIL 5, 2008.
2. OPEN TO ENTIRE GRAND, ROGUE, MUSKEGON RIVERS ONLY.
3. PAID TO DATE MEMBERS ONLY.
4. STARTING TIME 6:00 AM, FINISH AT 2:00 PM SHARP.
5. WEIGH-IN NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM SHARP.
6. ENTRY FEE, \$2.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE).
7. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2008, 9:00 P.M.
8. CONTACT BOB STREK 616-453-3109, BILL NEWELL 616-897-6949.
9. CATCH MUST BE STEELHEAD.
10. THREE (3) FISH LIMIT.
11. ALL FISH MUST BE 20" OR OVER.
12. ALL FISH MUST BE LEGALLY CAUGHT.
13. TWO RODS PER PERSON, STATE RULES APPLY.
14. ALL FISH ENTERED WILL BE JUDGED BY WEIGHT ONLY.
15. WEIGH-IN SITE EAST SIDE SIXTH STREET PARK.
16. TROPHIES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE, IN CASE OF TIE, TWO TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED.
\$20.00 CASH AWARD FOR LARGEST FISH. ONE REVOLVING TROPHY FOR FIRST PLACE.

NOTE: ALL CONTROVERSIES, PROBLEMS, ETC. ARISING WITH ABOVE CONTEST WILL BE RESOLVED BY THE STEELHEAD CHAPTER BOARD AT A SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING, NOT AT AN OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The quantity of fish food in Lake Michigan hit a record low for the second straight year in 2007, a trend that could be disastrous for the salmon fishery if it continues.

The volume of all prey fish in the lake -- alewife, bloaters and other small fish eaten by salmon, lake trout and whitefish -- dropped by half, from 61 kilotons in 2006 to 30 kilotons in 2007, according to data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center.

That's the lowest volume recorded since the government began tracking prey fish densities in 1973. Prey fish abundance last year was 92 percent below the record volume of 400 kilotons recorded in 1989, said Chuck Madenjian, a USGS research fishery biologist.

At the same time prey fish numbers are plummeting, the volume of foreign dreissenid mussels in Lake Michigan -- quagga and zebra mussels -- increased 13 percent in 2007, according to USGS data. There were 245 kilotons of quagga and zebra mussels in the lakes, eight times the volume of all prey fish; quaggas account for 98 percent of the mussels in the lake, according to government data.

"Most of the stuff we bring up in our bottom trawl now is quagga mussels," Madenjian said. "Their population has just exploded in the lake in the last five years."

The divergent trends of more mussels and fewer prey fish doesn't bode well for the Lake Michigan ecosystem or the sport and commercial fisheries.

Quagga mussels hog the plankton that comprises the base of a food chain that supports most fish species. The dime-sized mussels, which snuck into the Great Lakes in ocean freighters' ballast water, have been linked to the collapse of Lake Huron's salmon fishery.

They are shrinking salmon and whitefish in lakes Michigan and Ontario and causing algae blooms that foul beaches and botulism outbreaks that have killed 75,000 fish-eating birds around the Great Lakes over the past decade.

A state biologist said anglers should expect to catch fewer salmon, and smaller salmon, in Lake Michigan in the coming years. There aren't enough prey fish in the lake to support the near-record salmon catches anglers have enjoyed in recent years, said Randy Claramunt, research biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"I think we're going to see reduced salmon catches in the near future," Claramunt said. "This is not a crash of the salmon fishery, it's more like a soft landing."

The lake's alewife population held steady in 2007, Madenjian said. But the quantity of those fish has dropped by more than half in recent years.

Lake Michigan salmon have been shrinking in size because the food supply is dwindling. Anglers have caught numerous salmon in the past three years, but 20-pound fish have become scarce. In the 1980s, salmon weighing 30 pounds or more were common, according to state data.

The reason is that Lake Michigan, for fish, is like a grocery store whose shelves are being picked clean by a foreign invader, the quagga mussel. As a result, sport and commercial fish populations are vying for meals from shrinking stocks of plankton and prey fish.

Claramunt said he doubts the Lake Michigan salmon fishery will go the way of Lake Huron. Alewife disappeared from Lake Huron in 2003 and the salmon fishery collapsed the following year, according to state data.

The four states surrounding Lake Michigan reduced salmon stocking by 25 percent in 2006 due to concerns there were more fish than the lake could support. Those concerns were fueled in large part by the decline of alewife, the primary food source for salmon. Great Lakes fish expert David Jude said the precipitous decline of prey fish in Lake Michigan is startling.

"I think we're starting to see what quagga and zebra mussels have wrought," said Jude, a University of Michigan research scientist. "When they first arrived we wondered what kind of impact they might have and now we're starting to see it in lakes Michigan and Huron; I didn't think it would happen this quickly."

Madenjian said he is not yet convinced that zebra and quagga mussels are the lone culprit behind a steep drop in prey fish abundance in lakes Michigan and Huron, which geographically are one lake.

"The natural urge is to blame the mussels but I've resisted that," Madenjian said. He said other factors, such as natural fluctuations in the bloater population and the possible presence of too many salmon in Lake Michigan could be depleting prey fish populations.

Madenjian said the next three to five years will be very telling for the Lake Michigan fishery. He said a rebound in the bloater population could pump new life into the salmon, whitefish and lake trout fisheries.

The volume of bloaters in the lake dropped from 13 kilotons in 2006 to 5 kilotons last year, Madenjian said. The current bloater abundance is about 1 percent of the record volume recorded in 1989, he said.

"The big cause for concern in my mind is whether the bloaters are going to come back or not," Madenjian said.

The lone bright spot in data generated by the USGS' annual sampling of the lake bottom was the abundance of perch. Madenjian said he believes there will be terrific perch fishing this summer.

"Perch might be on their way to a recovery in Lake Michigan," he said.

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Tournament Trail is group of 15 established Big Lake Salmon and Trout Tournaments that run from May through September every year. The Tournament Trail Gander Mountain 333 Championship Series was added to the trail in 2005. It joins these existing tournaments together and forms a circuit that gives anglers the chance to compete for additional cash and prizes. The Best Overall division also allows teams to track their progress and compare their performance to other teams throughout the season. Each Tournament Trail event offers entry into the 333 Championship Series. The rules of the 333 call for each team to weigh their best 3 fish over the course of the two day tournament. Once a fish is committed to, it cannot be exchanged for a bigger one caught later in the tournament. The 333 provides the perfect mix of skill and luck to level the playing field and to give each and every team that competes a chance to win.

In 2008 Tournament Trail has joined with the all new Great Lakes Salmon Series (GL2S). GL2S is the premium brand and the first product in a long-term strategy focused on developing a viable tournament lifestyle on the Great Lakes. The idea of the GL2S was born in late 2002 when a seriously underserved market opportunity was identified on the Great Lakes, the Salmon and Trout tournament marketplace. Figures from the GAO (General Accounting Office) estimate that the Great Lakes Salmon and Trout fishery generates approximately 4.5 Billion dollars per year. However, even with such a lucrative marketplace, the top existing tournaments are typically paying \$10,000 or less to the winner of a 100+ boat event. GL2S will leverage multiple media outlets including national broadcast, cable television, and the internet to enhance the profile of the GL2S and to offer enhanced sponsor value resulting in increased cash purses. Broader exposure will also bring to light the largest fresh water fishery in the world and bring the best of the best to compete in each GL2S tour stop.

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