



MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

ISSUED QUARTERLY THROUGHOUT THE WATERSPORT COMMUNITIES OF MICHIGAN'S "THUMB"

President's Message

April, 2015

THE VARMINT'S WHEELHOUSE

Hello fellow Steelheaders! Busy season is upon us as the tournaments and events move closer. The Can2Can tournament in Harbor Beach is May 2nd and we will need plenty of help this year checking boats and moving coolers before the tournament and also at the weigh-in. Contact Chairman Jerry Lawrence @ (989) 428-4937 if you are available to lend a hand.

Also, there has been a change in the date of the annual Fish Fry, as it will now take place on May 9th at the Ubly Foxhunters Club serving dinner at 6:30 pm. We could also use some help setting up before and cleaning up afterwards, so sign up to help with Chairman Jack Noble @ (989) 479-0445.

There has not been a definitive answer as to what kind of fish will be kept in our net pens starting in 2016. The survival rate of steelhead in net pens as opposed to directly released in the lake is to be discussed at the next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting at the end of April in Claire. Doc Merkel and Jack Noble will keep us posted to what information has been collected and let us know what the future holds for our net pens.

At the same meeting, the main focus for a better portion will be directed at potential yellow perch and walleye regulation changes with a goal of improving the perch fishery and creating a healthier walleye population. There is talk of increased bag limits of walleye with the possibility of decreasing the length requirements. We will keep everyone posted as to the discussion and its outcomes.

One last thing that creates barriers for us each year is the lack of fishing boats taking part in our Veterans Fishing Outing and Kids Fishing Day each year. Please contact me at (989) 550-9227 if you have a boat available for the Veterans Fishing Outing on June 13th or Chairman Aaron Pfaff at (989) 550-7090 if you have a boat available for the Kids Fishing Outing on July 25th.

Best of luck on the water this year!

Kevin Ramsey, President

Pulling your boat out of storage

- Install fresh spark plugs
- If you didn't change lower gear case oil last fall, do it now
- Check all other fluid levels
- Lubricate all moving connections
- Reconnect fuel lines (and tighten or replace hose clamps if needed)
- Inspect your fuel system for leaks. Soft, brittle or cracking indicates damaged hoses that need to be replaced.
- Charge your battery and test it to make sure it can still hold a charge.
- Inspect your propeller for damage that can cause unwanted vibration and harm your drive train. Make sure the propeller is secured and replace the bearings if needed.
- Check belts and cables for wear. Black residue near the pulley could indicate a worn or loose belt. Cracking and swelling on control cable covering requires immediate attention.

Upcoming Events

4-16-15	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM
5-9-15	Annual Fish Fry 6:30 PM @ Ubly Foxhunters
5-2-15	Can 2 Can Tournament
5-21-15	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM

2015 may prove to be an interesting year for the Great Lakes and Lake Huron.

1) The Michigan Department of Agriculture and DEQ are supporting commercial aquaculture (net Pens) of fish in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. Very few rules are on the book for point source contamination for the Great Lakes waters. The permitting process by the DEQ and Department of Ag are acting like cheerleaders than law enforcement.

2) The 2015 walleye and perch programs for Saginaw Bay need to be founded by science and not by social and MDNR law enforcement issues.

3) Genetics issue in lake herring for Lake Huron sand Saginaw Bay seem to have been settled at this years Lake Committee meeting by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in March of 2015.

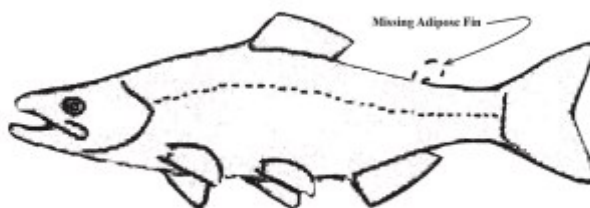
Ken Merckel

Foil Walleye & Vegetables

Walleye fillets	Cooking oil
Chopped celery	Sliced green pepper
Sliced onions	Thinly sliced tomatoes
Salt	Tabasco sauce
Pepper	Butter

Place a single fillet (one fillet per person) on a large piece of aluminum foil. Cover with two tsp. of cooking oil per package. Add layer of celery, green pepper, onion and thinly sliced tomatoes. Salt & pepper to taste. Add 2 tsp butter for flavor and Tabasco sauce for a bit of spice (optional). Seal foil well, but punch holes in top to allow steam to escape. Cook over medium charcoal for 30 minutes. Easy to prepare, tasty and no mess to clean up.

Fish with coded wire tags in the noses are marked with a missing adipose fin



Please return heads from marked fish to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

It is critical that all fishermen return tagged fish. See instructions at all cleaning stations in the area.

DATE _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR: YES NO
PLEASE PRINT FIRMLY
 CHECK CASH VISA / MC # _____ EXP. DATE _____
 NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ AREA CODE (_____) _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ No. in Household _____
 BOAT NAME _____
 HOME PORT OR STREAM _____ TYPE OF FISHING: Stream Lake Both
 SPONSORED BY _____ PHONE _____
 AREA CODE (_____) _____

MSSFA STATE AND CHAPTER DUES		
<input type="checkbox"/> AUSABLE RIVER (OSCODA) \$32.00	<input type="checkbox"/> HOLLAND \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH HAVEN \$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> BATTLE CREEK \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> HURON VALLEY \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> S. W. MICHIGAN (ST. JOSEPH) \$35.00
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Please take a look at your address block on the back of this newsletter. Just above your name is the date that your membership will expire. If your dues are coming up in the next quarter, please reduce our mailing cost by filling out the form below and sending it along with a check for \$30 to our membership chairman at:

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MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER



Take a Kid Fishing!



April, 2015



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Executive Committee Members as of January 1, 2015

President – Kevin Ramsey	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Vice President – Brandon Stanton	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Recording Secretary – Steve Lepeak	Term 1-1-15 to 12-13-15
Treasurer – Phil Allen	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Director – Ken Merckel	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Tom Smith	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Walter Godzwon	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Aaron Pfaff	Term Expires 12-31-15
Director – Jerry Lawrence	Term Expires 12-31-15
Director – Bob Golochowicz	Term Expires 12-31-15
State Representative – Jack Noble	Term Expires 12-31-15

Committee Chairmen for 2015

- Newsletter**– Aaron Pfaff
- Net pens**– Jerry Lawrence
- Fish fry**– Jack Noble
- Pig Roast Raffle**– Bob Golochowicz
- Speaker Coordinator**– Jack Noble
- Raffle Table**– Cherie & Steve Lepeak
- Vets Free fishing day**– Kevin Ramsey
- Kids Free fishing day**– Aaron Pfaff
- Pig Roast**– Kevin Ramsey
- Ladies Night**– Jack Noble

Check Out Our Website!

Visit www.thumb.michigansteelheaders.org
Sign up for email delivery of this newsletter!

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Ugly Fox Hunters Club on M-19, two miles south of M-142. Board of Directors meet @ 6:30 PM and Regular meeting comes to order @ 7:30



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