

# MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

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

## President's Message

July, 2016

# Wound Tight Wheelhouse

## VETERANS FISHING OUTING

On Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Thumb Area Steelheaders hosted their fifth Veteran's Fishing Outing. Sport fishing boats from all over Michigan met early Saturday morning, 54 boats in total, to donate their time and treat 130 local Veterans to a free half day of fishing on Lake Huron. The first wave of about 40 Veterans met at 5:30 am at Waterworks Park in Harbor Beach and boarded a Midnight Madness charter bus to ride to Grindstone and Port Austin to fish. The rest of the Veterans and boat captains met at 6:00 am and were given rides via golf carts to their assigned boats. There were donuts and coffee at the registration for all to enjoy.

Around 6:30 the fishing period began for all, greeted with a decent fishing chop. Although the lake had calmed down overnight, we still had 3 and 4 foot waves. Fishing was slow for many, as most boats had less than 5 fish to bring in, but there was nothing but smiles at the luncheon. Well over 200 fish were caught in the event, including steelhead, lake trout, pink salmon, walleye, and catfish. From the Harbor Beach boats, Steelheader Captain Chase Kucharczyk boated 17 fish for his Veterans! And in Grindstone, Steelheader Captain Dennis Cook hooked up and boated a 24 pound lake trout! There were plenty of great stories to go along with such a wonderful outing.

We all met at 1:00 at Waterworks Park for a bratwurst luncheon, filled with food and great prizes for many Veterans. Also, a 50/50 drawing was held for the event. Thank you to Stacy Zimmer for when she won the 50/50, she donated the entire winning amount back to the event! Many people were involved with the smooth operation of this outing. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. We have received such great publicity for our club and it is due to the help of all the boaters and event staff. I am truly grateful for our Veterans, and we should all be proud of what we have become a part of with this event!

Thank you again for all your support,

Kevin Ramsey



## Thanks to this years Can2Can Workers!

L/R Jan Lawrence, Johnny Bickle, Fred Grezesiak, Jerry Lawrence, Jim Ezyk, Steve Lepeak, and Craig Eitner. Not shown are Walter Godzwon, Bob Golochowicz, Darrell Connell, Bill Loss, and Neal Stanley. Thanks to the behind the scenes workers Phil Allen, Bill Loss, Al Williamson, Elaine Loss, and Randi Ramsey.

## Upcoming Events

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| July 16th   | Club Tournament @ Grindstone— Contact Scott Loss if you are able to fish 989-553-0210 |
| July 21st   | Ladies Night @ Uby Foxhunters— Board meeting @ 6:30 Ladies Night @ 7:30               |
| July 23rd   | Kids Fishing Outing— Contact Aaron Pfaff if you are able to fish 989-550-7090         |
| August 20th | Pig Roast @ Stafford Park   |

## A PROMISE MADE--A PROMISE KEPT

With the thoughts of the 2016 Vets Fishing Outing still fresh in our minds we have one more story to tell about the 2015 Veterans Outing. As many of you recall, it was a thick as "Pea Soup" of a foggy morning one year ago as the Boats headed out to fish from Grindstone City. One boat Captained by Dan Tracy of Bluebird Fishing Charters stayed in port to see if the fog was going to lift a little before heading out. Dan and his crew went up to the restaurant in Grindstone City for a cup of coffee to wait out the fog. After an hour or so it was apparent the the fog was going to win this battle on this day. Some of the Vets were disappointed of the lost opportunity to hit the Great Lakes to chase Salmon and Lake Trout. Capt. Dan was determined to get these folks out on the water so he told them to pick out a day when they could all come back and try again. It didn't take long for the Vets to come up with a day, made the call to Dan and it was set.! Later that summer on a beautiful day, they motored out to the Lake . And what a great day it was as evident by this photo of happy Fishermen and there catch ! Hats off to Dan Tracy and his First Mate on The Bluebird for Making a Promise to these Vets and Keeping it ! Again Thank You to ALL the Charter Captains and their Crews out of Grindstone, Harbor Beach and Port Austin who volunteered to take our Military people out for a great fishing day last year and again this year !



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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 \$40 to our membership chairman at:

Walter Godzwon  
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## CanlCan Tournament Harbor Beach, MI May 7, 2016

Sportfishing on Lake Huron got off to a strong start on May 7<sup>th</sup> with the 10<sup>th</sup> running of the Harbor Beach CanlCan Tournament. The event attracted 80 teams vying for the big \$10,200 cash prize to the winning team.

Looking back over the past 10 years of this tournament, the initial event drew a mere 13 boats. In each succeeding year though, this sportfishing tournament has drawn more entries. The 2015 event chalking up a record 84 teams. Perhaps the threat of forecasted thunderstorms on the big lake for this year's tourney kept last year's record intact. Then again, getting more than 80 boats out of the harbor on a shotgun start at 6 a.m. can be a daunting experience for both captains and tournament officials. The all-time record for entries was posted by the Blue Water Classic back in 1998, when 89 boats were entered at the port of Harbor Beach.

CanlCan tournament officials – Director Ben Milosevic and Coordinator Dave Pryor, relied on Thumb Chapter Steelheaders again this year to provide management services to ensure smooth running of the event. Steelheaders handled financial activities, from entry registration to paying out prize money to the top five teams and logistics during the event, from boat inspections to transporting sealed coolers to the weigh-in site at Waterworks Park.

The lake was riled with a stiff north wind that scattered the fish so the catches were not the greatest, even though the teams had until 2 p.m. to return to the harbor for the 3:00 weigh-in.

Sixty-one coolers of fish were lined up for the weigh-in. Tournament rules limit each team to 10 fish and no more than 5 of each species (the Michigan DNR two-person limit). Only three of the coolers had the 10 fish limit with most having only 6 or 7 in the box.

The Harbor Beach Park and Recreation Dept. built a large stage for this year's weigh-in that gave everyone in the large crowd an excellent view of the event. With Director Ben Milosevic at the electronic scales and a large digital display showing the weight of each catch, the teams brought their cooler up to the stage.

When the last cooler cleared the scales, it was the "Finlander" team and Captain Dennis Cook from nearby Grindstone City on top of the leader board, with 9 fish totaling 65.76 pounds. They received first prize, a beautiful trophy and a check for \$10,200 plus another \$250 check for weighing in the largest king salmon.

Second place went to the team "Circus Act 4", with an 8 fish total of 62.18 pounds. They received a check for \$4,100. In third place was the "Wastin Time" team, taking home a check for \$3,100 for their 59.08 pound catch, plus another \$250 check for the largest fish of the tournament which was a 17.90 pound lake trout. This fish will be mounted and presented to them at next year's CanlCan Tournament.

Fourth place and a check for \$2,100 went to the team of "C Dog" and the team aboard "Susie Q" receiving \$1,100 for their fifth place finish, plus a check for \$250 for the largest steelhead. The "Gray Wolf" team received \$250 for the largest brown trout weighed in. Teams in sixth through tenth place each received valuable merchandise awards donated by the many area sponsors whose financial support helps to make the CanlCan Tournament a successful event each year.

Next up on the Spring tournament schedule is the long-running Harbor Beach Pro-King Salmon Tournament set for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We'll recap the results of this event next month.

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In other activities and news items about Lake Huron, the DNR Fisheries biologists are asking anglers to be on the lookout for tagged walleye with a metal jaw tag carrying an ID number and a P.O. Box mailing address. The info can also be reported online at [michigandnr.com/taggedfish](http://michigandnr.com/taggedfish). About ten percent of these tags carry a \$100 reward for sending in the information. Anglers can keep the walleye or release it after removing the tag.

The Fisheries Division's new research boat (R/V Tanner) is now in service on Lake Huron. This vessel is equipped with advance electronics and equipment that will enhance research efforts for the Division.

The commercial fishing trap nets are again being set in offshore waters of the Thumb, between Harbor Beach and Port Sanilac. This is the second year of a three-year study to see if there are sufficient white fish in this area of the lake to relieve commercial fishing pressures in Saginaw Bay.

The water level on Lake Huron continues to rise and is expected to peak by mid-July. The lake level is staying more than a foot above the long-term average despite less than average run off from the Lake Superior snow pack this Spring.

Bud Donnelly

Thumb Chapter Reporter



**Can2Can 2016 Tournament Winner "Finlander"**

From L/R Jerry Cook, Dennis Dixon, Phil Pauguette, Captain Dennis Cook, and Mike Marjan. The team Collected a prize of \$10,200 for their catch.

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

# MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER



Take a Kid Fishing!



July, 2016



Temp-Return Service Requested

## Executive Committee Members as of January 1, 2016

- President**– Kevin Ramsey
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- Recording Secretary**– Bob Golochowicz
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- State Rep**– Steve Lepeak
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- Director**– Walter Godzwon
- Director**– Bill Loss
- Director**– Scott Loss
- Director**– Jerry Lawrence
- Director**– Brandon Stanton

## Committee Chairmen for 2016

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

## Check Out Our Website!

Visit [www.thumb.michigansteelheaders.org](http://www.thumb.michigansteelheaders.org)  
**Sign up for email delivery of this newsletter!**

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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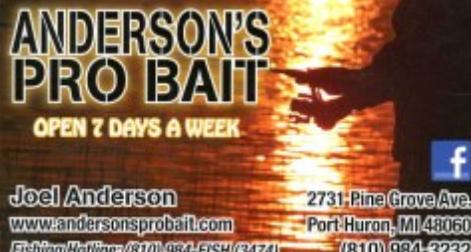


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# 2016 Veterans Fishing Outing

