



# MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

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

## President's Message

October, 2019

### Wound Tight Wheelhouse

As we close our meeting season out this October, we have a chance to reflect on all the great times we had together in 2019. The Can 2 Can tournament kicked us off for the season and with all the hard work by Dave Pryor, Phil Allen, Walter Godzwon, the Loss family, and the rest of the crew, we were able to bring in enough money to help fund the club as we moved through the year. The club fish fry was a success with Rick from Sandmann's in Harbor Beach delivering a delicious meal for our club members to enjoy together! The Veterans Fishing Outing experienced the nicest weather and largest turnout to date (8 years running), so thank you to all who made it possible!

Our President, Scott Stanke and his wife Melissa took the initiative to help build fishing excitement in our youth by setting up a booth for the Kids Outdoor Show at the Rapson Sportsman Club. Thanks to the Stankes for taking this on and engaging with our future protectors of the Great Lakes! AgVenture Day in Harbor Beach also gave us a chance to chat with many different people from our local community. Thanks to Scott and Melissa for setting up an awesome display to help spread awareness about who we are as a club! We changed the location of the pig roast this year, which turned out to be outstanding at the VFW Hall in Harbor Beach. Thanks to Phil Allen, the Loss family, the Stanke family, and everyone else involved with making this great meal possible and congratulations to local Veteran Ron Volmering who was the proud winner of the \$1,000 first prize!

All our events in 2019 were great for building awareness and giving back to the community, but we still have a very large concern - our club membership is in rapid decline and we definitely need your help as members to turn this around. We are going to put an emphasis in 2020 on smoothing out our operations, as many members have stepped up and offered to take major roles in becoming chairmen for certain events. We intend to have our 2020 calendar set by January to ensure we have ample time for planning and support for our events and encourage members to incorporate family and friends, so we can get more involved together! Doc Merkel is ahead of the game by

scheduling our speakers for 2020 meetings to avoid trying to book our guests during their busiest schedule times of the year and if you have recommendations, feel free to let us know. Ultimately, we need to understand that without change, we face losing the support needed to continue operating our local chapter. We can all help each other to counteract this and we will fix it TOGETHER!

Thank you all for sticking with us through the last many years and let's take it upon ourselves to each get a new member signed up with the Thumb Area Steelheaders!

Kevin Ramsey, Board of Directors

**PS – Anyone who gets a new member signed up in our local chapter in 2020 gets put into a drawing for the chance to win our 2020 grand prize (TBD but leaning towards a very generous gift certificate to a local vendor!)**

## Board Roster for 2020

### Officers

- Kevin Ramsey
- Bill Loss
- Phi Allen
- Aaron Pfaff

### Board Members

- 1-year terms Expiring 12/31/2020
  - Brandon Stanton
  - Neal Stanley
  - Rodney McLean
  - Dan Gonzalas
- 2-year terms Expiring 12/31/2021
  - Walter Godzwon
  - John Bickel
  - Fred Grzsiak
  - Scott Stanke

## VETERANS FISHING OUTING

On Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Thumb Area Steelheaders hosted their eighth Veteran's Fishing Outing. Fishermen and women brought their boats from all over Michigan to have the honor of treating our local heroes to a beautiful day on Lake Huron. Mother Nature showed the nicest side that we have seen in our event to date, as the skies were blue and sunny, the lake was flat calm, and the temperature could not have been more enjoyable. There were 49 boats in total sharing their experience with 141 Veterans which were both record numbers for this event! Fishing lasted from 6 am until noon and we reconvened for a wonderful luncheon to share in the fellowship on this awesome day.

Our Veterans were shown great respect as our city and county law enforcement greeted them on their route to the luncheon while the fire department hoisted a giant flag with their aerial truck near the boat docks. The whole scene was decorated in our proud Nation's colors, and the flags representing each hero's military branch were displayed along the path to the luncheon. HB Parks and Recreation outdid themselves once again by giving us a perfect layout of seating around the pavilion and providing their huge stage as a platform for us to carry out our lunchtime festivities. Numerous families donated their time with their golf carts to help transport Veterans and their heavy fish coolers from the docks to the luncheon.

Captains and their crews showed off their catches at the cleaning station and then fileted and packaged the fish for each Veteran to take home. There were more than 350 fish caught in total for the day, consisting of lake trout, steelhead, pink salmon, chinook salmon, Coho salmon, bass, walleye, whitefish, sheepshead, and catfish. We proceeded to a catered luncheon, filled with great food and awesome prizes for Vets and captains also. Event tee shirts were given to each Veteran, captain, and first mate and at the closing of the luncheon, the Huron County Sheriffs Department offered rides to all those interested in the back of their awesome military 5-ton truck!

During the planning stages of the very first Veterans Fishing Outing in 2012, we never dreamed the event would grow to the size it has today. We have offered nearly 800 available seats over the past 8 years for a once in a lifetime experience for our local heroes. This has been made possible by your continued support and willingness to step up and say, "Thank You for Your Service," a phrase that often goes unsaid. We are very thankful for all you have done and hope to continue our program in the many years to come.

Thank you again for all who have supported,

Kevin Ramsey, Thumb Area Steelheaders

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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:

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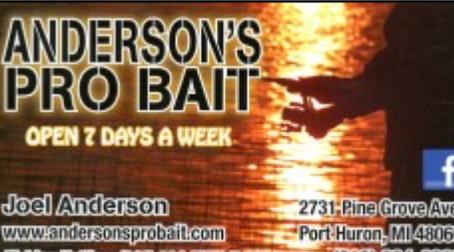
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# MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER



October, 2019



Temp-Return Service Requested

## Executive Committee Members as of January 1, 2019

- President**– Scott Stanke
- Vice President**– Brandon Stanton
- Recording Secretary**– Aaron Pfaff
- Treasurer**– Phil Allen
- State Rep**– Ken Merckel
- Director**– Walter Godzwon
- Director**– Bill Loss
- Director**– Neal Stanley
- Director**– Kevin Ramsey
- Director**– Rodney McLean
- Director**– Dan Gonzalas

## Committee Chairmen for 2019

- Newsletter**– Aaron Pfaff
- Postcards**– Aaron Pfaff
- Avian predator control**–Walter Godzwon
- Fish fry**–
- Pig Roast Raffle**–
- Speaker Coordinator**– Ken Merckel / Brandon Stanton
- Raffle Table**–
- Vets Fishing day**– Kevin Ramsey
- Pig Roast**–
- 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

