

2007 Key Dates

April 24 – Member Meeting
Capt. Mike Gnatkowski

May 29 – Member Meeting
Boat Rigging Show

**June 23 Special People
Outing - Lake Erie
(Doug Karakas)**

June 26– Member Meeting

July 31– Member Meeting

DAS Member Discounts

As a member of the Detroit Steelheaders you are eligible for a number of

discounts.

Our **Boat US** club discount number is GA82750B

Pro Fishing & Archery Center--

Ph # 586-469-2070

5% on reels, electronics, bows - 10% discount on everything else.

Dunhams

10% off except on firearms and supplies

Sherwin Williams Paints

20% off regular prices

5% off sale prices

Use # 9078-5147-1

Contact Tom Moores at the membership desk for a discount card.



Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? The month and year your membership expires is below your name. If it's marked yellow, your membership may be close to expiring. Don't be disqualified from a tournament because you forgot to re-up. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to the club post office box (1255 in Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255).

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights Mi. 48311-1255



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MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

April 2007
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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

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Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, Mi.
48311-1255

Fishin' Tales



you want to help fix up rod/reel combos.

Up to date club information can be also found on the DAS web site at www.detroitsteelheaders.org.

St. Joe Tournament April 28

The winter has broken and the birds are singing. The Detroit Steelheaders turn their attention to the 2007 trolling season. We start with a bang at St. Joes. Last years tournament was a big success, with boats bringing in their limits. As a reminder, keep track of your fish. We would not want anyone to bring more than their limit to the weigh-in. Last years big fish was a 15.5 pound king. The typical set up is that of a spring fishery spoons and body baits. There is usually a mixed bag of species as indicated by last year's results. To see last years results go to the Detroit Steelheaders web site and look under the trolling tournaments on page two.

From past years the hotspots included the color line at the Cook Nuclear plant, the junk cars and the "Chalets" south of the pier head. Last year on the day following the tournament Paul Geldum and I limited out by 9:00 A.M. We were 10 miles NW from the pier head in 80 feet of water.

When leaving the launch, keep your eyes on the markers in the river. You will end up on a sand bar if you do not follow the

April Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday April 24, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)- Warren, Michigan. Our meetings are always open to the public.

Our main speaker for the April 24th meeting is Capt. Mike Gnatkowski – of Gnat's Charters; a Ludington Charter boat captain and Michigan outdoor writer. (www.gnatscharters.com/) Mike heads Gnat's Charter Service and operates the **EQUALIZER** out of Ludington.

Mike has been a full-time Great Lakes charter captain for more than a decade and has guided anglers on Michigan rivers for nearly 20 years. Those that heard Mike at our Bass Pro day walked away with a lot of great information.

We will also be helping the Salvation Army for their Echo Grove Salvation Army Camp by doing reel and rod repair and spooling with line. We will be meeting at 6:30 if

markers. Right behind the launch are a large cluster of sunken logs. You have plenty of room but remember to make the turn for the river as soon as you are clear.

The weigh in and the captains meeting will be held at the West Basin Marina. If you do not have a slip, and would like to reserve one, you can do so through the DNR website. The captains meeting will be at 5:30 prompt. Fish calls will be at 9:00 A.M. and Noon. We will announce the pulling of lines at 2:30. You must be in line at the weigh-in by 3:30. During the weigh-in you will be treated to a culinary delight, created by the crew of Thor's Hammer.

If you are in need of accommodations try the Silver Beach Hotel. The Silver Beach used to be the Clarion Hotel. When you contact them tell them that you are with the Steelheaders and ask for the discount. Their phone number is 269-983-7341

We look forward to seeing you in St. Joe. If you have any questions or for more information call Port Captain Alan Wiechert "Thor's Hammer" 313-999-6717 or Trolling Director Joe von Grabe "Sloppy Joe" 586-293-7688.

South Haven Tournament, May 5th

Saturday May 5 will be the Second Tournament of the season and the Detroit Area Steelheaders will roll into South Haven. The captains meeting will be held this year at the Black River Marina at 5:00 AM. Boats will be allowed to head out directly after the Captains meeting, but must wait until 6:00 AM to set lines. Port Captain will be Tim Robinson of the Pride & Joy. "Fish Calls" will be at 9:00AM and NOON. Captains will pull lines at 2:00PM and must be in the weigh in line back at the Black River Marina by 3:00pm.

Friendly reminder to those who plan to use the city's automated launch, remember to have exact change for the toll gate. The cost to use the launch is \$7.00 the machine will accept bigger bills, but will not make change. There is a small tackle shop (Porthole II) just up the street from the launch for any of those last minute supplies you may have forgotten or need.

Though anglers in the area are primarily targeting Kings this time of the year, a mix bag of Coho, Lake Trout, Steelhead, and if lucky the occasional Brown Trout can be expected as well. Most boats are finding that a spoon based program to be the most productive this early in the season. Skippers, also keep in mind there is a 20" minimum size and three fish limit for Lake Trout.

May 29 Meeting:
The May meeting will feature Boat Rigging Show in Parking Lot.

The featured speaker will be from Berts Custom Tackle to speak on Boat Rigging. www.teclausa.com/bert
In addition, the meeting will have upcoming tournament information and recent tournament results, fishing reports, raffles, and short technical presentations where time allows. Hope to see you there.....Jason



Stupak introduces cormorant control bill

Michigan Congressman Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, has introduced legislation aimed at better controlling double-crested cormorants. The Great Lakes Migratory Bird Research and Management Act, which Stupak first proposed in 2002, would enable the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to investigate the effects of migratory birds, such as cormorants, on fish stocks in the Great Lakes

Stupak said his legislation is aimed at moving cormorant control beyond a piecemeal approach to a more integrated and comprehensive solution. The legislation would authorize the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to develop a coordinated approach between Canada and affected Great Lakes states. Under the bill, the Commission would develop a common "memorandum of understanding" outlining appropriate cormorant control measures. ✧

Mich. issues 1st ballast water permits

The Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality announced the first ten Ballast Water Control General Permits have been issued to an international shipping company in accordance with Michigan's new ballast water control law. The law, which went into effect January 1, is designed to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes.

A Bulgarian shipping company, NaviBulgar-Smolyan, has received DEQ authorization to engage in port operations in Michigan when the St. Lawrence Seaway opens next month.

Under the new law, oceangoing ships must obtain a permit from the DEQ in order to use Michigan ports. Permits are issued only if the applicant demonstrates that they will either not discharge ballast water or will use one of four approved environmentally sound technologies and methods to prevent the discharge of aquatic invasive species.

NaviBulgar applied for permit coverage for its vessels to conduct port operations without discharging ballast water; however, the company is evaluating several ballast water treatment methods for future implementation. ✧



MSU to develop Shooting Sports Center

Michigan State University (MSU) has embarked on a major fundraising effort to build a state-of-the-art shooting sports, education and training center on its East Lansing campus.

Bill Taylor, chairperson of the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, says the multipurpose facility will support NCAA shooting programs and team sports, the National Archery in the Schools Program, hunter safety and 4-H youth programs. It will also house club shooting sports — including small-bore, air rifle and archery — and academic programs related to shooting sports, law enforcement, and related curricula.

"We are on a fast track to identify funds to see this project through fruition and are seeking donations from industry, clubs and individuals," Taylor said. "We anticipate a completion of funding commitments very soon, with facility completion scheduled for fall 2007."

The facility will help develop shooting sports teams that will compete for national championships. It will also provide numerous opportunities related to shooting sports education and enjoyment for the public. The initiative is in partnership with the Michigan DNR.

Program Goals Include:

- 1) Provide a public venue to promote and advance the safe use of firearms
- 2) Construct a state-of-the-art indoor range for public and university use
- 3) Establish an NCAA competitive air rifle and small-bore rifle team
- 4) Integrate and expand academics, shooting sports, and firearm safety
- 5) Increase shooting opportunities for National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) student athletes
- 6) Enhance relationship with shooting sports stakeholders and constituents
- 7) Fully endow 3.6 NCAA athletic rifle scholarships and the operating budget for the rifle team

<http://www.fw.msu.edu/shootingsports/>
✧

MARCH MEETING RECAP

Those that missed the March meeting missed a great one. First we had multiple tables filled with great buys on used equipment. There were current and antique rods and reels, downriggers, props, radios, sonars, etc. Check out the club web site and the classified section for what remains.

We also offered free line to those who brought reels. We hope to repeat this for April with left over line.

Our speaker was Capt. Who fishes the Canadian side of Lake Erie. He gave a very informative talk on the fishery for walleye and steelhead. It's always fascinating that different ports have different techniques that seem to work. Often times these techniques can be an unknown hot ticket at another port, too. (I'm sure we will see a few Jet Divers on the tournament trail this year.)

FREE LINE at APRIL MEETING

The most important piece of fishing equipment you have is your line. If it fails nothing else matters. We often tout the need to put fresh line on your reels to start the season. So here's a terrific opportunity. The Detroit Steelheaders will spool up to 4 reels for free.

Just bring your reels to the April member meeting. Please strip reels of old line prior to the meeting to make everything go faster.

If there is line left over after everyone has filled four, we will fill additional reels.

Grand Haven - Two Day Tournament- May 19/ 20

The DAS will be traveling to west Michigan to the beautiful port of Grand Haven for our only two day point's tournament of the year. The tournament will start on Saturday, May 19th with the 5:00 AM captains meeting at Chinook Pier located at the Municipal Marina. Lines in by 6:00 AM, first fish call at 9:00 AM, second at Noon, pull lines at 2:00 PM, be in line for the weigh-in by 3:00 PM. Day two will start at 6:00 AM Sunday with no captains meeting, one fish call at 9:00 AM, pull lines at 12:00 PM, weigh-in at 1:00. Port Captain is Bob Jones, Bobby's Toy. Cell is 734-751-1767.

The weigh-in will held at the Municipal Marina at the little park (Chinook Park) on top of the hill. The park is next to the parking lot at Chinook Pier. Keep in mind a city ordinance prohibits any alcohol consumption at the park. Hot food and pop will be served during and after the weigh-in. Cooking entertainment will be provided by Bob Ksionzek and Bob Brumer of the Bobby's Toy Crew. Better known as the Last Dime captain and crew to you old timers.

Historically Grand Haven has been one of the clubs best tournaments for amount of fish caught and variety available. Big kings are common, smaller kings

very common with a few Browns, some Coho, Steelhead and Lakers. Spoons are the lure of choice in May at Grand Haven; however don't dismiss the idea of flasher/fly or meat rig. The majority of my success has been spoons. Michigan Stinger bloody nose has been a personal favorite. I mix up the spread with mags and regulars Silver Streaks; the Silver Streak dolphins are good producer as are yellow tail.

Structure is scarce at Grand Haven. Small drops and ledges will hold fish. I have points in my plotter that hold fish year after year. Fish can be anywhere this time of year. The best advice is to head out straight west until you hit clean water or start marking fish. I have done well in 25FOW up to 250FOW; all depends on the wind and waves. Look for the warm pockets of water to find bait and fish. Majority of my fish have been caught south of the pier heads in 100 to 150 FOW. Any of the newer boats with limited success or experience at Grand Haven look me up dock side and I will share some of my favorite spots with you. Don't be afraid to approach the local charter captains at Chinook Pier as they can be a wealth of information. If you identify yourself as a Detroit Area Steelheader that will help break the ice.

Fishing Lake Michigan at this time of year can be tricky. Spring weather can be very unstable. Pay close attention to changing weather, storms can move very quickly. I was caught in one on a Friday morning pre-fishing outing that

was clocked at 80 mph coming across the lake. We saw the storm, it was at least 10 miles away, we pulled lines and it was on us. We had a long eight mile ride back. The best advice I can give you; make sure you have the pier heads in your GPS, stay calm, slow down and ride with or quarter to the waves. Visibility will be nil, have your crew keep a sharp eye out for other boats. You can not out run it, it will win. Keep your boat speed slow, but enough rpm that you can keep your boat under control in the wind and waves. Lower you antennas keep everyone seated and ride it out. It would be best to let another club boat know that you are out there prior to lowering your antennas. Keep in mind this is one of those once in a life time chances that it can happen to you, just be prepared and know what to do if you do get caught.

The best boat launch is the Harbor Island Launch which is maintained by the city. I believe the cost to launch was raised to \$10.00 this year. When you approach the ramp you will see a small white machine on your port side (driver side to you land lubbers), deposit your cash in the machine and it will dispense a ticket that shows you paid the launch fee. Be aware, the parking lot is checked on a regular basis, if you are not displaying a current launch ticket on your dash, visible through the windshield, you will receive a ticket. If you are leaving your boat trailer overnight make sure you put it in the grass/dirt over flow lot. The launch is easy to find; when coming into Grand Haven you will be coming off of highway 104 and turning south onto highway 31. You will go over the Grand River, stay in the

right lane and the service road and sign are at the very foot of the bridge. Turn right and follow the signs.

The Municipal Marina has excellent facilities with many floating docks and warm showers. Reservations can be made on line through the DNR reservation system. I suggest you make the reservation if you want a floating dock, as they go fast. The Marina can be reached at 616-847-3478 or 616-842-2550; hours are 7 to 4 this time of year. The Marina can be hailed on VHF channel 9 and 68. If you are like me, and coming in after hours, call ahead and they will assign your dock and give you the bathroom code so you have everything you need prior to your arrival.

There are many excellent motels, bed and breakfast and campgrounds in the area. Restaurants abound as well. There is something for everyone here, if you want to bring the wife, Muskegon offers a couple of nice shopping malls and is only a short 20 minuet ride north on 31. See the handout at the April meeting for all the listings for the area or see www.grandhaven.org for complete listing, area guide and event schedule.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me: Bob Jones at 734-751-1767. For you newcomers out there, make sure you make this tournament, it is one of our closer tournaments and one of the best. Alternate contact is our trolling director, Joe Von Grabe, Sloppy Joe. Joe can be reached on his cell at 586-945-4334.

Hope to see you there. Bob Jones

SPRING INSPECTION

OUTDRIVES and ENGINES:

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds), and replace if suspect.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels. Replace worn-out zincs.
- Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable has to be replaced.
- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks and make sure all lines are well supported with non-combustible clips or straps with smooth edges.

ENGINES- FUEL SYSTEMS:

- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be snug and free of rust. Clean fuel filters.
- Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rot, leaks and/or cracking. Make sure they fit snugly and are double-clamped.
- Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.
- Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water.
- Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure it's working properly.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.
- Make sure your boating

license and/or registration is up-to-date. Don't forget your trailer tags.

- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage.

2007 Boat Trolling Tournaments

2007 Tourney's and Port Captains as follows:

4/28 St. Joseph (Al Wiechert)

5/5 South Haven (Tim Robinson)

5/19, 5/20 Grand Haven 2-day (Bob Jones)

6/9 Port Austin Team Doubles (Dave Linder)

6/23 Special People Outing - Lake Erie (Doug Karakas)

7/14 Manistee (Tom Gorguze)

8/4 Ludington Ladies Day (Mark Williams)

8/11 Ludington II (Ron Pal)

8/25 Manistee II (Bob Paradise)

9/8 Frankfort (Bob Fiesel)