



Mid-Michigan Telegram



April 2008

Monthly Newsletter of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the
Michigan Steelheader & Salmon Fishermen's Association

President's Corner

For several years Good Friday weekend was the the start of the boating season. Don C. & I would usually head down to Benton Harbor. Ummm! Spring Coho and some of the fastest fishing I can remember. This year forecast of a major snowstorm (late but otherwise accurate) had me shoveling 6 inches of “early spring” off of the sidewalk instead.

Our summer fishing events are fast approaching. We have a couple of important things at this months meeting, 1) Last call for skippers and crew for the May 3rd St. Joe outing; and, 2) First call for the May 24th Grand Haven event . Looking ahead to our Lake Erie outing there are still sites available at Sterling State Park, most of our sites are in the 40's. So if you are wanting to crew on a boat or if you're a skipper needing crew I know I'll se you on the 21st.

Schedule is coming along nicely for the show! I am thankful for everyone who has signed up early. Makes everything easier for Gerri. We could use one more in the booth Fri 2to 5 pm. and someone to help Gerri during the Sunday meeting. Also need fish cleaning station help for the same times.

As the show planning is almost complete Gerri is turning her attention to the summer Picnic July 20th. Not to early to let her know you plan on being there. If you haven't been to one yet you should give it a try (yes I know the same weather that makes a good picnic also means decent fishing) as we have a great time.

One last thing for those interested my ticket sales lead over Gerri lasted until 10 minutes after our arriving at Birch Run.

One last item... Most of our renewals are due with the show. Remember we have increased our dues to \$35 so make sure the checks are for the new amount.

Tight lines!

Larry

2008 Raffle Tickets

If you have any raffle tickets that you have not sold and don't think you will sell them, please get them to Gerri **BEFORE** the Lansing Boat and Fishing Show (starts Friday, April 11). We can then try to sell them at our chapter membership booth at the show.

If you don't sell them and the club does not have them to sell at the booth we could lose lots of \$\$\$ to fund club initiatives and activities.

Contact Gerri or Larry as soon as possible if you have tickets to turn in.

Address: 6300 Hillendale Rd, Sodus, MI 49126
Email: INFO@FISHDOGCO.COM
Steve: (269)876-8634
Mark: (269)208-9868

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March Membership Meeting Recap

Many thanks to Capt. Steve Dennis (Fishbone charters and products), who was our speaker at this meeting. Steve gave a great presentation on fishing Ludington. He also gave some very good fishing tips. Larry got his hand slapped when he couldn't wait to get one of the free Warrior lures that Steve picked up at the Grand Rapids Show to share with our members. Very good job Steve!

We also discussed the chapter BIG FISH contest and the need to get signed up. Last chance will be at the April 21 meeting.



GOING NUTS 2

Join the Lansing Steelheaders for family fun on Thursday, June 19th to watch the Lansing Lugnuts verses the Great Lakes Loons. This will be our second year for a Steelheader night at the ballpark. This is a Molsen Thirsty Thursday, with beer and pop specials for \$2.00. WILX TV-10 is sponsoring "Reggy the Purple Party Dude" a fun furry creature – sure to keep the kids entertained.

Tickets (Box Seats) are \$9.00 each. Please call or email Jenny Quinn – jennymaequinn@gmail.com / 517-580-4983 (leave a message) with a count how many tickets you want so we can reserve enough seats! The game starts at 7:05 PM. See you then and **GO NUTS!**

LANSING BOAT AND FISHING SHOW APRIL 11-13

This year we will again be providing the staffing for the fish cleaning station at Trout Unlimited's trout pond. We also will have our own raffle/ information booth. Current members can renew, new members can join, we sell our raffle tickets and give people information about the Steelheaders association and our local chapter.

We still need a few volunteers:

Fish Cleaning:	Friday (4/11)	2:00pm-6:00pm (1 person)
	Saturday (4/12)	3:00pm-8:00pm (1 person)
Chapter Booth:	Friday (4/11)	2:00pm-6:00pm (1 person)
	Sunday (4/13)	2:00pm-5:00pm (1 person)

Sunday 2:00pm we will be having a special presentation by the Rob Presson who runs Sea Bee charters on Lakes Michigan and Erie. He is an expert on the use of SlideDivers and will not only be giving SlideDiver product information but some great fishing tips too.

Showspan has very generously given us free passes for our current members. Please contact Gerri if interested.

April 21 Meeting

This is one of our most popular meetings each year. We'll have mini-clinics! There will be both lake and stream fishermen to share special tips or how-to's. Each will present the info a few times and you get to move from presenter to presenter. It is a lot of fun for everyone.

Have you got your individual sales of Raffle Tickets completed? Your stubs and money must be turned in at this meeting. If possible please bring a check, so Rick doesn't have to have so much cash! I will have prizes for all that met my 25 pack challenge, PLUS every member that has sold or bought tickets (your name must be on back of stub) will be in a special member mini-raffle where I have 2 custom made rods and other prizes. Please turn in your sales before 6:30pm. We will also draw the 5 lucky raffle winners.

With the Sport Show earlier in the month, we should also have quite a few new members in attendance. Come meet the new members.

ST. JOE OUTING – MAY 3

By Ryan Gilbert, Port-Outing Captain

The first outing of 2008 is going to be out of St. Joe/Benton Harbor. The main target is going to be salmon – Coho and Kings. Contact Ryan Gilbert – SeaCatMich@comcast.net or 517-505-2010 (after 7 pm) if you are interested in participating – with a boat or as a crew member.

As was discussed at the March meeting, we will have our weigh in at the West Basin city marina. If you want to slip your boat, West Basin is also a good location as it is closest to Lake Michigan and you don't have to deal with waiting for the railroad bridge to open! See the outing rules elsewhere in the newsletter for detailed information/rules on the fun tournament.

We also discussed the lodging options in the St. Joe/Benton Harbor area at the March meeting. Unfortunately there is no good campground in the area – not that camping that early in the year would be that nice anyway. The hotel situation is a little unusual as well. Hotel/motels in this area seem to fit into three distinct categories: 1) not so nice but low cost/cheap; 2) nice, but kind of pricy; and 3) real nice, but real pricy. Therefore, we are not going to have a preferred location designated. I (Ryan) lived in St. Joe until moving back to the Lansing area in 2005. Below are some listings of hotels/motels in the area and what price range they are in. I'm planning on staying in downtown St. Joe at the Silver Beach Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn, formerly the Radison..). I suggest that we pick a good restaurant for Friday and Saturday night activities.

<u>Hotel & Location</u>	<u>Contact info</u>	<u>Pricing</u>
Silver Beach, downtown St. Joe Closest to launch ramps and West Basin Marina	(269) 983-7341 http://www.stjoesilverbeachhotel.com/	\$70/night "fisherman special" (regular is \$79) 2 double beds/room; good boat parking – safe area
Park Inn, Stevensville – 5 miles south of St. Joe off I94	(269) 429-3218	\$79/night; good boat parking – safe area
Motel 6, near I94 Benton Harbor; best of the "low cost" in the area – many are worse	(269) 925-9072	\$40/night 2 double beds; it is best described as a "place to sleep"; ok security

Most of the major chains like Holiday Inn Express, Courtyard, Comfort Suites, Baymont Inn... are in the area but prices are in the \$90+/night range. There are also some national chains that have dumps in the area – Ramada Inn, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, EconoLodge...

Membership Page

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Terry Sanford	Terry Dingler	Tasha Dingler	Shayna Baker
Roger Arnold	Lance Valentine	Josh Baker	John Long
Joseph Hoesl	Jason Atkins	Gary Graft	Dusty Dingler
David Haring	Dave Bieganski	Dan Thelen	Chris Baker
Brian Woolcock	Ben Baker		

JANUARY DUE

Paul Rogers	Jeff Bustos	David Hershberger
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FEBRUARY DUE

Brian Bielecki	Dennis Higlemier	Scott McGill
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MARCH DUE

Carol Atkins	Matt Benuska	Michael Bokavoy	Vicky Decker
Phil Drum	Marty Drum	Brent Earl	Kraig Elements
Bryan Graham	Gary Greenman	Doug Herbruck	William Higgins
Conrad Howard	John Jenks	Dennis Kelly	David Koski
Jeff Livermore	Roger Madsen	Carl Murray	Robert Nawrocky
Sam Ross	Corey Sanders		

APRIL DUE

Mark Redburn	Scott Mathe	William Earl	Kirk Florian
Larry Ganun	Tom Hagar	Dave Hodges	Emma Hodges
Mark McClutchey	Donald McJames	Ron Stirm	

If you are more than 2 months over due for renewal (IE: on the Jan or Feb list above) you will be removed from the mailing list and no longer have Steelheaders benefits. You need to renew as soon as possible. Call (after 7 pm) or email Gerri as soon as possible. The membership form is available on the chapter website (mmsteelheaders.org) under "How to join".

To renew make your \$35 check payable to: **MID MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS.**

Bring it to the next meeting or mail to:

Gerri Hoort

Mid Michigan Steelheaders

P.O. Box 321

Sunfield, MI 48890

2008 MID MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
January 18, 19, 20	Newaygo River Outing	Steve Markucki (517) 646-8377
February 16 & 17	Swap Meet, Midway Best Western, Lansing	Larry Hoort, Gerri Hoort, Ryan Gilbert, Pat Quinn
April 11, 12, 13	Lansing Boat and Fishing Show	Gerri Hoort – We need everyone to help!!
May 3	St Joseph Lake Michigan outing	Ryan Gilbert (517) 505-2010
May 17	River clean up and fishing outing – Location TBD	TBD
May 24	Grand Haven Lake Michigan outing	Larry Hoort (517) 243-1766
June (date TBD)	Lansing Lugnuts Game	Jennifer Quinn
June 14	Sterling State Park Lake Erie outing	Greg Blankstrom (517) 294-3003
July 12	Whitehall Lake Michigan outing	Greg Blankstrom (517) 294-3003
July 20	Summer Picnic	Gerri Hoort (517) 242-0190
August 2	Ludington Lake Michigan outing	Ryan Gilbert (517) 505-2010
August 16 & 17	Manistee Campout and outing	Larry & Gerri Hoort (517) 242-0190
September 20 & 21	Wellston stream, river & boat outing “Something For Everyone”	Doug Herbruck (517) 285-4497
October 20th	Annual meeting to set next 2009 outings	
December 6	2008 Christmas Party	Gerri Hoort (517) 242-0190

2008 Outings/Tournaments

Please refer to the March 2008 Mid Michigan Newsletter for detailed information on each of the 2008 Outings. No real updates other than St. Joe (see page 3 of this issue) and we are out of space.

If you have questions, contact the outing’s port captain (see the table above!).

Mid Michigan Board Members

<i>President</i>	Larry Hoort	(517) 243-1766
<i>Vice President</i>	Steve Markucki	(517) 646-9377
<i>Membership</i>	Gerri Hoort	(517) 242-0190
<i>Secretary</i>	Jenny Quinn	(517) 541-1015
<i>Treasurer</i>	Rick Travis	(517) 655-1086
<i>State Director</i>	Ron Hunt	(517) 543-1334
<i>Sport Show</i>	Gerri Hoort	(517) 242-0190
<i>Chair Stream Outings</i>	Brian Bielecki	(517) 566-7199
<i>Director - Web/Newsletter</i>	Ryan Gilbert	(517) 505-2010
<i>Director – Chair: Boat Outings</i>	Greg Blankstrom	(517) 294-3003
<i>Director</i>	Pat Quinn	(517) 896-3495
<i>Director</i>	Don Cunningham	(517) 566-8262
<i>50/50</i>	Pam Redburn	
<i>Photographer</i>	Pam Bieganski	(517) 223-1045

August Campout

This is our premiere outing of the year!!!! The 2008 dates are **August 16 & 17** at Insta-Launch Campground in Manistee. You need to RSVP early!

The cost is only \$25 PER MEMBER (a membership is member, spouse, and minor children). Hot dogs, soda (7-up products), bottled water, smores, the Saturday fish-boil (each membership brings a dish to pass), and camping lots are all provided for the \$25. Many members do share lots. We have 2 community lots, where a campfire is going all of the time; a canopy is on 1 of these lots where members bring snacks to share and is central for the fish-boil.

RSVP with your \$25 now!!! Don't miss out on this awesome outing! Call Gerri at (517) 242-0190.

2008 Big Fish Contest Rules

1. Entry fee for the 2008 season is \$10.00 per member.
2. The fee must be paid before you go fishing and catch the fish to be entered. You may enter as many fish as you want.
3. Fish must be caught between Jan 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008
4. Entries must be submitted to the contest chair (Greg Blankstrom) by January 5, 2008.
5. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the January meeting in 2009 (1/19/2009)
6. Eligible species include Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Atlantic salmon, Pink salmon, Steelhead/rainbow, Brown trout, Lake trout, and Walleye..
7. Prizes will be awarded for each eligible species
8. All entered fish must be weighed on a **certified scale** or the club scale. The entry must include the scale's date of certification, its location (business name, city), and the name and phone number of a witness to the weighing. Please try to get a picture of the fish too!
9. Fish must be caught out of a Michigan port. For example: In Lake Erie, the boat must leave from and return to Michigan port/launch, but the fish can be caught in Ohio waters.
10. All prizes are 100% payback of fees collected with equal prizes awarded for each eligible species entered.

Entry forms and fish submission forms will be available at the April 21 and subsequent general membership meetings. If you have any questions about the rules or the contest, contact Greg Blankstrom.

MM Steelheaders' Tournament Rules 2008

Page 1 of 2

1. A minimum of one crew member on the boat must be a member in good standing of the Mid-Michigan chapter of the Steelheaders.
2. A minimum of 2 licensed anglers per boat (at least 16 years old)
3. All boats must be registered prior to the "lines in" time of the tournament
 - a. Pre-register at a monthly membership meeting prior to the tournament
 - b. Phone call to the tournament's port captain/director or chapter president
4. Notification of non-participation after registering must be made prior to "lines in" time of the tournament by direct contact (telephone) with the port captain/director or co-captain/director.
5. Boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length and have all U.S.C.G. required equipment on board
6. All boats must have a VHF Marine radio onboard that is capable of transmitting and receiving on channels 9, 16, and 72
7. VHF channel 72 will be used as the tournament control channel - unless a different channel is specified at a specific port. Boats should monitor this channel as all tournament/outing related announcements will be made on this channel
8. Rods are limited to a maximum of a three person DNR regulation regardless of the number anglers on board--9 per boat (Lake Michigan); 6 per boat (Lake Huron, Erie, Ontario, Superior).
9. All DNR regulations for the waters being fished apply
10. Fishing time will start a minimum of ½ hour before NOAA sun rise (calculated by the port captain/director or co-captain/ director) & continue until 1:30 pm.
11. If tournament must be delayed from Saturday to the Sunday "blow day" , lines out will be 12:00 noon Sunday.
12. Weigh-in will be 60 minutes after "lines out". It is the boat captain's responsibility to plan to be back for the weigh-in.
13. "Lines in": Participants are allowed to set lines at the designated start time for the tournament. Boats can leave port and be at their fishing location to set lines at the start time.
14. "Lines out": All lines must be pulled & be in the boat at the designated "lines out" time.
15. A fish hooked prior to "lines out" time can be landed & count for weigh-in. No additional time will be awarded to return to port for weigh-in.
16. Boats must depart and return to the port designated as the tournament /outing port. IE: If the tournament is Grand Haven, you must leave from & return to Grand Haven; You may not leave from Muskegon & returning to Grand Haven to weigh-in .
17. Weather and blow/make up days
 - a. 2 weather boats per tournament plus the Port Captain will make decisions on canceling, delaying, or calling the tournament early due to unsafe weather/waves conditions.
 - b. The smallest boat registered is strongly encouraged to be one of the weather boats.
 - c. Weather boats will be determined prior to the start of tournament & must be at the port
 - d. 3 hours of fishing after "lines in" will be considered a completed tournament
 - e. If a tournament is ended early but after 3 hours of fishing, an announcement will be made notifying boats of the early termination multiple times over the tournament control VHF channel (generally 72) . All lines must be pulled at the time of this notification. Weigh in will be 90 minutes after the first "tournament over" announcement.
 - f. Tournament fees (not lunch fees) will be refunded if the tournament outing is ended prior to 3 hours of fishing. After 3 hours, no fees will be refunded and the weigh-in will be held.
 - g. If the tournament/outing is called day 1 and held day 2 but a boat cannot stay, tournament fees will be refunded. If the tournament /outing is not held on day 2, tournament fees will be refunded.

Continued on page 2

MM Steelheaders' Tournament Rules 2008

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18. Weigh In

- a. Weigh in will start 60 minutes after designated "lines out" time. Boats must be at the weigh in site at 2:30pm Saturday or 1:00pm Sunday
- b. A single person Michigan DNR salmon/trout limit of 5 fish may be weighed. This can be a mix of any allowed species and is a "best of boat" limit. IE: if the boat catches 10 fish total 6 Chinook, 1 Steelhead, and 3 Coho- a DNR limit of 5 fish can be weighed but a maximum of 3 fish can be Chinook or Coho. A walleye or perch can take the place any salmon/trout in the 5.
- c. Only salmon (Coho,Chinook,Alantic,Pink), trout (Rainbow,Steelhead,Brown,Lake trout,) Walleye and Perch may be counted toward your 5 fish DNR individual limit.
- d. Minimum size/length will correspond to the DNR rules for the body of water being fished.
- e. Points formula
 - i. 10 points per fish
 - ii. Plus 1 point per pound – rounded
 1. A 8 lb 5 oz fish will get 18points: 10 points for the fish & 8 points for the weight (5 oz rounds down)
 2. A 2 lb 8 oz fish will get 13 points: 10 points for the fish & 3 points for the weight (8 oz rounds up)
 3. A 23 lb 11 oz fish will get 34 points: 10 points for the fish, 24 points for the weight (11 oz rounds up)

19. Big fish derby will be biggest fish by weight.

20. All protests must be voiced by the conclusion of the weigh in process to the port captain/director.

21. Tournament Fees

- a. \$10.00 per angler includes tournament fees and lunch
- b. \$10.00 per boat for big fish entry
- c. \$5.00 for lunch for those not in tournament
- d. All anglers on boat must be registered
- e. Tournament fees will be refunded if notice is given of not participating prior to "lines in " time of the tournament. Food portion of fees will not be refunded as these funds will have already have been spent well before tournament day.

22. Outing lunch

- a. Lunch will be held approximately one hour after the start of the weigh in
- b. If the first day of the tournament is called, lunch will be held at what would have been weigh in time.

23. Tournament Payout

- a. 6 boats or less 1st= 50%, 2nd= 30%, 3rd=20%
- b. 7-12 boats 1st=40%, 2nd=25%, 3rd=15%, 4th=10%
- c. 13 boats or more 1st= 40%, 2nd=25%, 3rd=20%, 4th=10%, 5th=5%
- d. Big Fish 100% to largest fish weighed

Sponsor's Corner

The Businesses below give **us** (MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER MEMBERS) Discounts. These are **IN ADDITION** To The State Association's "IT PAYS TO BELONG" Program.

- Bridge Street Pub, Dimondale (10% discount)
- H&H Auto Care (Art Higelmire)
- www.jandhproducts.com (John Ball)
- Slammer Boards (Chris & Ben Baker)
- Leo's Outpost (10% discount)
- M.Chance Orvis
- Grand River Bait & Tackle (10% discount, except Bait)
- Local Talent Karaoke & DJ Service (Mary & Jason Atkins) 517-484-7915
- Rive Rat Dog charters (Doug Buehler) on the Muskegon river, Manistee, and St. Joe rivers (<http://www.riverratdog.com/>)
- FishDogCo.Com – 10% off purchases – contact Wayne Wheeler (517) 243-0539

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April 21 General Membership Meeting at Buddies' in Holt

- Page 1: Turn in your unsold raffle tickets!**
- Page 2: Lugnuts Game; Fishing Show**
- Page 3: St. Joe Outing Info**
- Page 4: Do you need to renew your membership?**
- Page 5: Calendar of events – Picnic date change**
- Page 6: Big Fish contest rules**
- Page 7 & 8: 2008 Tournament Rules**



**Mid-Michigan
Steelheaders**

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