



# Mid-Michigan Telegram February 2008



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

Congratulations to Don (Water Wolf) Cunningham for winning the chapter Big Buck contest. And to Dave (R-Tyme) Bieganski on winning the chapter Big Fish contest. This was our first year with both contests in new formats. Not too many entries but we expect better in 2008. To facilitate more entries in the big fish contest we have decided to certify our contest scales.

So if you plan on entering any of our events (including the August campout) be sure to enter the big fish contest this year. Contact Greg Blankstrom at 517-294-3003 as soon as possible. Entry fees were actually due first of Jan.

February what is there for a fair weather person like me to do? Good thing the winter Sport Shows

have started. Gerri and I went to the Novi show last month and had a great time renewing old acquaintances. For those of you who might not know Gerri LOVES the sport shows (and if you come to meetings you know why).

Coming up are ♦Huron Valley's Michigan-Ohio Sport Fishing Expo at the Monroe County Expo Center (Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>); ♦Flint's Sport, Boat, and Fishing Show (Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> / Mar. 2) at the

Birch Run Expo Center; ♦Grand Rapids has the Ultimate Sport & R.V. Show at Devos Place (March 13<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup>); and don't forget our ♦Lansing Center show in April. I know that's not all of them but those are the one's I want to get to.

See EVERYBODY at our swap meet. Check Gerri's Swap Meet Update for more details.

*PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER*

*Tight Lines!  
Larry*

## February 2008 Meeting

The **FEBRUARY 18 MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will start at 7 pm at Buddy's of Holt – 6 pm social/dinner hour.

Has anyone noticed that it is cold out? The lakes are a little difficult to troll on right now. Ice fishing can be very good – especially on our inland lakes. This meeting will have a presentation on ice fishing from one of the best! We've never had a speaker on this subject before and are very lucky to have **Mike Boedeker**. This past December he came in 3rd in the North American Ice Fishing Championships. give us an ice fishing presentation.

Do you need any new fishing gear? I know, stupid question! Contact fellow member **Wayne Wheeler** at **Fish Dog Co** and get 10% off by being a Mid Michigan Steelheader. Call Wayne at: **517-243-0539**. You're going to buy it somewhere... save some money and support a company that supports us!

Address: 6300 HILLDALE RD, SODUS, MI 49126  
 EMAIL: INFO@FISHDOGCO.COM  
 STEVE: (269)876-8634  
 MARK: (269)208-9868

**FISH DOG Co**  
 REAL GEAR FOR GREAT LAKES ANGLERS

The Mid-Michigan Mid-Michigan Steelheaders are very excited to present our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Swap Meet at the Best Western Midway Hotel. The Swap Meet will be open Sat. 9:00am-7:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm. All of the booths and tables are sold – yes, we started small for the first year, but we are sold out. The great vendors include:

- ✚ If you (or anyone you know) are thinking of going on a Charter talk to Capt. Denny Higlemier of **Billie Sue Sportfishing** for both river and great lake charters out of Manistee.
- ✚ **Fishbone Charters** (Capt. Steve Dennis) offers great lake charters out of Manistee and he also has fishing accessories through **Fishbone Products**.
- ✚ **Bob Brace** (Grand River Fly Shop) will have those great ornaments he makes for our Christmas Party Wreaths in his booth (think ahead now for gifts!)
- ✚ **Red Doctors** (Al Mull) will be there with custom made rods and rod repairs.
- ✚ Everyone has been excited about the **Ping-a-Tee** lures in our raffles, now you'll have a chance to meet Lynn and Kelly and check out their whole line of lures.
- ✚ **Bob's Outdoors** has been very generous supporting our chapter, please stop by Bob Hicks booth and thank him for supporting our chapter.
- ✚ Jack Wilson is coming from **Lighthouse Tackle**. I'm really looking forward to checking out this new business.
- ✚ **Eaton County Ducks Unlimited** will also have a booth and they will have tickets for their great banquet/raffle which will be the following weekend.
- ✚ **Tony Pagliei** will have an awesome fly fishing booth to visit.

# Swap Meet

# Update

*by Gerri*

Besides all of this, there are 21 more tables of hunting, fishing and camping equipment from individuals. Stop by each table to find some real bargains. We will also have a **Mid-Michigan Steelheaders table**, where we will be selling our Spring Raffle tickets, renewing memberships and giving club information to prospective new members.

Seminars: Saturday will have Denny Higlemer with a seminar on Manistee lake and river fishing for salmon/steelhead AND Sunday Tony Pagiei will talk about spring fly fishing for steelhead. At other times both days we will be showing Dan Keating's DVDs (Keating on Kings – part 1 & part 2).

We need you to **tell everyone you know that is at all interested in outdoor sports about the swap meet**. Invite your friends, relatives, co-workers or acquaintance to the swap meet. They will have a good time in the middle of February looking for good deals and they can stop by our table and learn about your club.

The back page of the newsletter is a flyer that can be printed and posted. Please print a few and put them up around town to help with advertising.

# Membership Page

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

John Daly	Chuck Szafron	Steve Gardiner	JoAnn Miller
Ron Shepard	John Hesse	Jay Epler	Henry Hofstra
Eugene Dokum	Joe Puente	Mike Webster	John McLaren
Henry Nabors	Tim Tenbusch	Ron Mascheke	Denny Grinold
Steve Dennis			

## DECEMBER DUE

Bill Madsen
-------------

## JANUARY DUE

Greg Blankstrom	Jeff Bustos	David Hershberger	Wayne Huff
Paul Rogers			

## FEBRUARY DUE

Bruce Baird	Ben Baker	Josh Baker	Brian Bielecki
Tasha Dingler	Dennis Higlemier	Ron Hunt	John Long
Scott McGill	Brian Woolcock		

## MARCH DUE

Carol Atkins	Jason Atkins	Matt Benuska	Michael Bokavoy
Vicky Decker	Phil Drum	Marty Drum	Brent Earl
Kraig Elements	Bryan Graham	Gary Greenman	Doug Herbruck
William Higgins	Joseph Hoesl	Conrad Howard	John Jenks
Dennis Kelly	David Koski	Jeff Livermore	Roger Madsen
Carl Murray	Robert Nawrocky	Nathan Peabody	Steve Pickard
Sam Ross	Dave Rummel	Corey Sanders	Dan Thelen

To renew make your 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	Everyone!!
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 27	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

## January Meeting Summary

We were so happy to welcome Capt. Denny Grinold as our January speaker. Denny gave us many Grand Haven fishing tips, plus a lot of Sea Grant information. Many people had questions after his presentation. It was a GREAT job Denny!

## Metro West Steelheaders Banquet March 15

The Metro-West chapter has a great banquet each year as a major fund raiser. The ticket price is \$35/person which includes dinner and an open bar. So far, 10 Mid-Michigan members have decided to go to this fun night.

When: March 15 at 6:00pm -- cocktails at 5:30pm with dinner at 7:00pm.

Where: Romas Banquets Hall, Garden City.

If you would like to come along, please contact Gerri Hoort.

# January State Board Meeting

Report by Ron Hunt, Mid Michigan State Rep

January 19<sup>th</sup> was “Steelheaders Day” at the MUCC offices in East Lansing. Annually the MSSFA State Association has an all day meeting – in the morning the chapter presidents meet and then in the afternoon the state director representatives from each chapter join in for the regular monthly meeting. The Mid Michigan Chapter was represented by Larry Hoort (President), Ron Hunt (State Director), and Ryan Gilbert (State Dir. Alternate).

There is a focus at the state level to encourage each chapter to have a youth active program of some sort this year. As you know our Mid Michigan Chapter is working on having a youth oriented event on the free fishing weekend in June.

The current MSSFA account balance is \$6,963. Approximately \$3,000 of which will be spent on producing the association newspaper (Great Lakes Sport Fishing News) for the year.

At the start of the 2008 fiscal year, the Michigan DNR had \$10 million remaining from the 2007 budget plus a possible funding supplement of between \$4 to \$6 million that may come from the general fund. The surplus was a result of the DNR not filling positions and making cost saving/reductions in many areas. Consequently, the proposed rate increase for fishing and hunting licenses is not going to happen this year. This may solve the problem for 2008 but there has not been a plan to really fix any future short falls that will accrue.

The question of “Who owns the Great Lakes Sport Fishing News?” was raised. This is the paper we receive as a member. It was determined as of January 1, 2008 MSSFA did own the paper and the association has initiated a state board committee to review the paper (advertising rates, improvements, cost reduction...). Many members have not been receiving the paper has been a major problem for the past few issues. Changes in the way that the post office (USPS) handles and wants non-profit mail prepared have been identified and corrections to how the papers are addressed/labeled for mailing are in the works. The January “Sport Show Issue” was being mailed on Friday 1/25/08 using the new process. Please make note of when you receive the issue as the publisher/mailed is interested in knowing how long delivery takes for various areas of the state. If you are not getting your paper contact me (Ron Hunt) so we can get this corrected.

The MSSFA web site will be changing where it is hosted. The new host company offers additional tools that provide functionality for enhancements that have been requested and greater storage capacity for growth. One of the requested enhancements is for chapter membership lists to allow each chapter’s membership chair to verify information online. Eventually this may include online updating of membership information for each chapter.

MSSFA has been operating for many months without a Vice President. Due to a long term illness and subsequent passing of Ronald W. Plekker (Grand Rapids Chapter) in September, the position has been open. At this meeting Rick Balabon (MSSFA President) requested that the position be filled as there are too many things going on for Rick to handle alone. Knowing that this a job that could take up a lot of a person’s time there was a suggestion that it be more than one person and potentially have things covered on a regional basis. Four people volunteered to help fill that position and it was approved by a vote.

MSSFA Membership Challenge: Larry and Gerri Hoort have been chairing a state level committee focused on retaining and increasing membership in the organization. Gerri presented the committee’s plan for a membership challenge drive involving state level prize incentives for individuals to sponsor new members to the Steelheaders. A motion to approve the plan was made and approved.

Interest in increasing the number of Chinook salmon in the combination salmon/trout limit on the Great Lakes from 3 to 5 has surfaced from reliable sources in the DNR. The MSSFA State Board made and approved a motion to have Andy Pelt relay MSSFA’s support for this initiative.

There was discussion about how to increase funding for the MSSFA. Support for a fundraiser such as selling “I Fish Michigan” stickers was expressed -- more discussion to follow.

# "LET'S SHOW RICK BALABON" MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

The MSSFA is having a fun membership challenge called "Let's Show Rick Balabon". It starts now and goes through December 2008. The idea is members of each chapter to sponsor everyone they know to join the MSSFA. Each chapter will reward members for sponsoring new members to the MSSFA. The board of each chapter will decide how they will reward their members at the chapter level and how many memberships each member needs to sponsor to be rewarded. The top sponsor of each chapter will then attend the January 2009 MSSFA meeting and be in a drawing for some pretty nice prizes, there will be one state/MSSFA level prize for each chapter.

The Mid-Michigan chapter will have 2 different drawings at the Christmas Party:

1. A drawing for all members sponsoring 2 members, prizes will be valued at approx. \$40-\$50.
2. The second drawing will be for those that sponsor 4 or more new members to MSSFA. The prizes will be valued at a higher amount.

The MSSFA challenge is for new full memberships to the MSSFA, Junior members and chapter only members will not count.

Mid Michigan's Goal??? **Can we add 30 new members to the MSSFA, or better yet, how about each current member sponsoring at least ONE new member?**

Some examples of some of the prizes at the MSSFA level drawing:

- \$100 gift certificate from D & R Sports in Kalamazoo
- Custom made rod
- Marine Cooler
- Weekend get-a-way for 2
- Trip for 1 to St. Johns Fishing Lodge \*

(Everyone please go to [stjohnsfishinglodge.com](http://stjohnsfishinglodge.com) and check this out! While there you can fill out survey and please let them know you heard about them from the MSSFA. So they know they are getting promoted for their \$3,650 donation.)

Note: Rick Balabon is the President of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fishermans Association (MSSFA)!

## FREE!! Gander Mountain Seminars

Transtech will be sponsoring Lance Valentine's Walleye 101 seminars at the Lansing Gander Mountain \*\* FOR FREE \*\*. Call Gander Mountain for more details. Here is the schedule.

- 2/21/08 The secret to catching more and bigger walleye
- 2/28/08 Walleye in rivers
- 3/6/08 Sonar: Basics and beyond
- 3/13/08 Walleye in the Weeds
- 3/20/08 GPS Advanced tips and tricks
- 3/27/08 Open Water Walleye

## Mid Michigan Board Members

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

## *St. Joe - May 3*

Our first BIG WATER outing of 2008 will be May 3 over at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. Hopefully spring will come earlier than it did last year or in 2006 when our early outings were hammered by Mother Nature.

St. Joe's spring fishery can be great with limit catches in quick order very common. Scrappy cold water Kings and Coho salmon move to south end of the lake following the warmer water and are the usual targets, but Steelhead and Browns are also often found in the box.

Unfortunately, St. Joe/Benton Harbor does not have a close campground but does have good launch facilities, a couple real good tackle shops, lots of hotels/motels and restaurants with trailer parking. There are also marinas that rent slips.

More details as we get closer. Contact port captain Ryan Gilbert at a meeting or call at 517-505-2010 if you plan to participate.

## August Family 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.

## September 20 & 21 Outing

Doug Herbrucks "SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE" outing at Wellston is another outing you need to plan now for and RSVP. This outing includes wading (river, stream) and boat (river, big lake) fishing. Wellston has the best river and stream fishing.

When you call Twin Oaks Campground (877) 442-3102 to make your reservation, make sure you tell them you are with the Mid-Michigan Steelheader **club**.

Call Doug at (517) 285-4497 with any questions and to let him know you are going to attend.

# 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

**"THE ROD DOCTOR"**  
**"IF WE CAN'T FIX IT IT'S BROKE"**  
**CUSTOM ROD BUILDING AND ROD REPAIR**  
**CUSTOM FLIES**



**MIKE STEPHENS**  
**AL MULL**  
**5519 MANOR DR.**  
**LANSING, MI 48911**  
**PHONE: 517-393-3185**

**Gary's Custom Rods**

G. Loomis, Sage, Cedar & St. Croix  
 Steelhead, Walleye Fly Rods

Gary Graft  
 Phone: (517) 647-7229  
 Cell: (517) 582-8284

306 West Street  
 Portland, Michigan 48775

**Billie Sue Sportfishing**



4550 Oaks Road  
 Okemos, MI  
 48864  
 Phone (517) 628 8085

[www.billiesportfishing.com](http://www.billiesportfishing.com)  
 email [lyn4@vynycar.net](mailto:lyn4@vynycar.net)

**Grand River Fly Shop**



536 E. Grand River Ave.  
 Lansing, MI 48906

**(517) 267-1573**

**Bob's Outdoors**

Quality Salmon Tackle

**877-455-7096**  
[www.bobsoutdoors.com](http://www.bobsoutdoors.com)

**Cedar Creek Studios**



**Larry Tucci**  
 Award-Winning  
 Patterns & Prints

Online Gallery  
[www.tucciart.com](http://www.tucciart.com)  
 Studio (248) 840-6834  
 Home (248) 652-4772

407 Buckle Road  
 Easton Hills, Michigan  
 48829-2277

Nature & Sporting Art

Specializing in Finest Quality Fishing Rods

**CUSTOM FISHING RODS**  
 Handcrafted  
 by  
**Doug Herbruck**



**H & H CUSTOM RODCRAFT**  
 905 Wilson St.  
 DeWitt, MI 48820  
 Phone (517) 669-3885

**River Rat Dog**  
 Guide service L.L.C

**STEELHEAD-SALMON-TROUT-BASS**  
*by fishing \* spinning \* plugging*

INDOORFISHING 517 651 2616  
[www.riverratdog.com](http://www.riverratdog.com)

**ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER**  
**SALES AND SERVICE**  
 INSPECTIONS \* RECHARGING  
 PICKUP AND DELIVERY




SAFETY FIRST

B: 517-230-1851  
 H: 517-371-4332  
 F: 517-371-4332  
 E: [ABCFireout@AOL.COM](mailto:ABCFireout@AOL.COM)  
 OWNER JOSEPH S. PUENTE JR.

VISA  
 MASTERCARD

**The Mid Michigan Steelheaders  
are proud to present our**

**1st Annual**

**SWAP MEET**

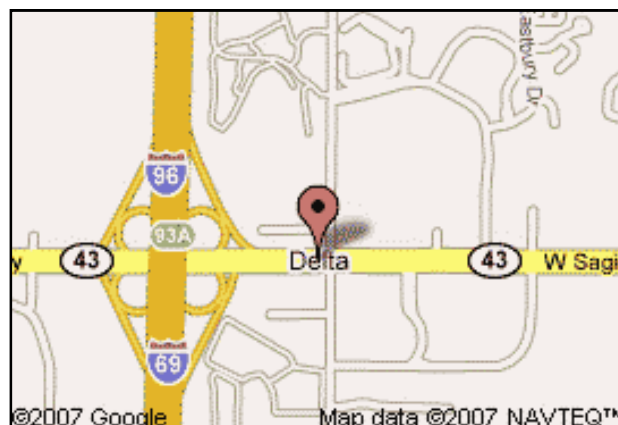
**FISHING - HUNTING - CAMPING**

**February 16 & 17, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday)**

**At Lansing's Midway Best  
Western Conference Center**

**7711 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI  
(Just east of I96/69 on the west side of Lansing)**

**Hours: Saturday 9 am - 7 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm**



- **FREE** admission to members of the Michigan Steelheaders Association (**ALL** Chapters)
- \$3 admission for non-members (**FREE** for kids 12 and under accompanied by an adult)
- Plenty of **FREE Parking**
- **Want to sell?**
  - ◆ \$25 for an 8' table for both days. Not enough stuff on your own? Go together with a friend!
  - ◆ \$75 for an 8' x 8' space for both days (business)
  - ◆ To reserve or get more information call Gerri (517-242-0190), Pat (517-896-3495), or Ryan (517-505-2010) or email [mmsteelheaders@yahoo.com](mailto:mmsteelheaders@yahoo.com)
- **Fishing seminars each afternoon – topics to be determined**
- **The Midway's North Pine restaurant will be open (Sat 7a-2p & 5p-10p, Sun 7a-10:30a) and each admission gets \$1 off on a meal at the restaurant**

**Buy! Sell! Trade!**

## What's Inside???

Page 1: February 19 -- Membership Meeting at Buddy's in Holt

Page 2: Feb 16/17 Swap Meet Update

Page 3: Dec – March Membership Renewals

Page 4: 2008 Calendar of events

Page 5: State Board Meeting update

Page 6: MSSFA Membership Challenge

Page 7: Initial St. Joe Outing Info (May 3)



**Mid-Michigan  
Steelheaders**

P.O. Box 321  
Sunfield, Michigan 48890