



Mid-Michigan Telegram



May 2008

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

First I want to join Gerri in thanking everyone who helped at the sport show. I know I had a great time. I had several really small ones want to watch their fish cleaned so I set a stand up for them, asked the parent to hold them. At one point I walked up on Ryan giving a lesson on filleting to several very interested adults. May is the first of our lake outings, this year we have made a MAJOR change in crewing boats. We've had problems with the old style crew list. So this year we are going to try something different. The new process will start with the Grand Haven event on May 24th.

President's Corner

I should be hearing from everyone going to Grand Haven in the next week. This should work better as long as no-one waits until Thursday to see what Saturday's weather will be.

Once you commit everyone will count on your presence.

May 17th is our scheduled river cleanup, John Hesse (chairman) plans on meeting at 10 A.M. in the parking lot for the ball field's corner of Kalamazoo & Clippert. John reports that the upper part is some of the primary spawning habitat for Salmon & Steelhead. All of it is great fishing. We have 3 canoes and a flat bottom and about 10 people so far. We could real use 10 more volunteers. Contact John at 517-626-6194. Gerri is trying to get pizza's so let him know soon.

May is also the month that EVERYONE planning on Manistee in August must have the reservation and \$25 to Gerri at the meeting. I'm not even allowed to be an exception.

Raffle drawing was held at the April meeting. Harold Henry has his certificates for the Holliday Inn, Lavern Carr selected the muzzle loader, and Mike Ruccine was excited to receive the custom rod, Kevin Heyboer has already been in contact with Dave Beiganski about one of the fishing trips. Only one winner hasn't returned his call yet.

1. As soon as a skipper decides to COMMIT to an event, they let the port captain know they will be there.
2. If they are not fully crewed this is the time to let the port captain know.
3. Members needing a ride also call the port captain knows as soon as they are willing to commit to the event.
4. The port captain will then put them in touch w/ each other.
5. Skippers also need to let the port chair know if their crew status changes.

For example: Greg I have my reservation for Lake Erie. At this time I have 1 crewman confirmed & have room for 2 more).

Tight lines! *Larry*

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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!**

AUGUST CAMPOUT

This is the chapter’s premiere outing of the year!!!! August 16 & 17 at Manistee. The hub of outing activities is the Insta-Launch Campground. You need to RSVP by the May 19 membership meeting. This is earlier than previous years due to the demand for the event.

The cost is only \$25 PER MEMBER (a membership is member, spouse, and minor children). Hot dogs, soda (7-up products), bottled water, s’mores, and the Saturday fish-boil (each membership must bring a dish to pass) are included. Camping lots are also provided and many members share lots. We have 2 community lots where a campfire is going all the time and a canopy is on one of these lots where members bring snacks to share.

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

**YOUR \$25 AND RESERVATION IS
DUE BY THE MAY MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

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.

If you have any questions about the rules or the contest, contact Greg Blankstrom.

April 21 Meeting

What a wild night this was—whoa! We had over 85 members attend this meeting! Several new members attended his or her first meeting plus lots of our regular members.

First up were the give aways: Gerri's Challenge Raffle Drawing, Membership Raffle Sales Drawing, The Spring Raffle Prize Drawings, 50/50 Raffle, and finally the Lure Raffle.

Next we welcomed Jeff Auvenshine to ask if any of our members could help with the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's Veterans Program fishing outing put on by the Bass Federation.. They take the veterans fishing and need more boats – but you have to have a live-well. The date is June 14 which is our Walleye Outting, but if you aren't going AND you have an appropriate boat AND would like to volunteer to help, contact Gerri and she will send you the information. This is a great way to give a day of pleasure to the veterans and their families for their sacrifice.

Then we covered some club business and announcements. Everyone was reminded to get signed up for the coming outings by contacting the port captain if you will be going (as a boat skipper or crew). Ryan also reminded us about the towing policy of the Coast Guard – they won't tow you if there is a commercial towing service available at the port. A commercial service will cost \$300+.

Then (yes, more) we had the mini-clinics! Greg Blankstrom plans this presentation and everyone enjoyed moving to each clinic for a short very informative presentation. Greg gave some good tips on walleye bottom bouncers; Denny Higlemier was pretty awesome with his great lake tips; Ryan Gilbert held everyone's attention with his presentation on fishing river salmon; and John Hesse was exceptional with his stream fishing tips. Thanks to all four guys for sharing this information and tips with us. A very special thanks to Greg for organizing this presentation.

Thanks to Larry, Roger and Tongva for stepping up to help when Gerri got swamped with too many things to do.

MAY 19 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Just in time for our June walleye outing, Mark Van Kampen will be our May speaker. Mark is involved with the Lance Valentine Walleye 101 group and should be able to give you some good tips for our outing. **By the way, if you haven't made your arrangements to go on this June 14 outing, you need to do so NOW.** Members have reserved their lots at Sterling State Park, most have campsites in the 40's.

As always our meeting is at Buddies Bar & Grill in the Holt Plaza. Most meet at 6:00pm for dinner/social hour, with our meeting starting about 7:00pm.

Membership Page

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Mike Boedecker	Len White	Michael Yost	Glen Sinclair Jr.
Bill Earl	Scott McGill	Doug Herbruck	Dale Heavener
Mike Bokovoy	Jason Coslow	Corey Sanders	Sam Ross
Keith Bradley	Tammy Gilbert	Gary Wyr	Dennis Kelly
Michael Redoutey	Terry Schmuecker	Russell Buetler	Terry Radel
Michael Pitzanish	Rob Nawrocky		

JANUARY DUE

FEBRUARY DUE

Paul Rogers	David Hershberger
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Brian Bielecki	Dennis Higlemier
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MARCH DUE

Carol Atkins	Matt Benuska	Vicky Decker	Phil Drum
Marty Drum	Brent Earl	Kraig Elements	Bryan Graham
Gary Greenman	William Higgens	Conrad Howard	David Koski
Jeff Livermore	Roger Madsen	Carl Murray	

APRIL DUE

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

MAY DUE

Tom Bartlett	Robert Brace	Mark Gabrowski	Nathan Tischer
Rick Travis	Richard Zalenka		

Don't get more than 2 months over due for renewal -- you will be removed from the mailing list and no longer have Steelheaders benefits (IE: on the Jan, Feb, or March list above). **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

Lake Erie - Sterling State Park - June 14

By Port Captains: Greg Blankstrom and Pam Bieganski

Outing #3 is Lake Erie Walleye! This year's outing should be great, as the walleye should be running bigger (18" to 22") than last year. Quick limits should still be the norm either drifting or trolling.

As of last week there were a few campsites still available at the state park, but they will start filling up fast (especially weekends) with spring weather around the corner. As in past years we are going to try to get sites in the southwest corner of the park. Already Greg Blankstrom is in site #44, the Bieganski's are in #45, and Ryan Gilbert has site # 40. All are coming earlier in the week to take advantage of the great fishing. The DNR reservation number is 1-800-447-2757 or go to <http://www.midnrreservations.com/campgrounds/search.cfm> on the web.

Hope to see you there! Of course we will have hot dogs around the campfire on Friday & Saturday nights.

Chairperson: Greg Blankstrom 517-294-3003

Co-Chairperson: Pam Bieganski 517-648-0021

Mid Michigan Board Members

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

Whitehall – July 12

This will be a new port for us. Whitehall (on the south side of the White River and White Lake) and the sister village of Montague (north side of the river/lake) offer great Lake Michigan fishing this time of year for salmon, steelhead, and lake trout. Like Muskegon to the south a few miles there is a gentle slope from shore leading out to the lake trout plains. Beyond that deeper water that holds salmon is not that far out and further out, you can often find scum lines and temperature breaks holding steelies on the surface.

DNR NEWS: 3 RODS PER PERSON EVERYWHERE

The DNR has put forth a proposal to extend the current 3 rods per person allowed for salmon trolling on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior to all fishing. Currently if you are not trolling for salmon/trout, you are limited to 2 rods per person. This includes if you are salmon trolling in a sunken river mouth or lake (Manistee, Ludington, Grand Haven...) or from a pier. This is confusing to anglers and makes enforcement more difficult as well.

The DNR is asking for input from the public on this via the following page at the DNR web site: <http://www.mi.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153--191030--,00.html>

LANSING BOAT & FISHING SHOW

By Gerri

This sport show is the venue with which our club survives! We sell our raffle tickets and many people come to the booth to join our chapter. It's sad to watch this show get smaller each year because the citizens of the Lansing area are not huge supporters of this show. It also is a big help that Mid-Michigan Steelheaders placed posters everywhere. Thank you for helping with this as Show Span provides us with the club booth, the meeting hall, and member tickets for our services.

The special presentation by Slide Diver sponsored charter captain Rob Presson (SeaBee Charters) went very well.

A VERY special thank you to those who worked the Raffle/Information Booth and the Fish Cleaning Station. You guys make my position as chairperson much easier! You don't realize how important you are!

Thanks to Steve Markucki for sitting up our fish cleaning station and working 2 shifts. A special thank you goes to Trout Unlimited for allowing us to clean the trout so these kids can have a positive first fishing experience. Also volunteering to clean trout were:

Larry Hoort	Ron Bozma	Dennis Dann	Henry Hofstra
Pat Quinn	Corey Sanders	Herb Miller	Ryan Gilbert
Doug Herbruck	Greg Blankstrom	Tammy Gilbert	Doug Liu*

*Note: Doug Liu joined the chapter in February, wanted to work the fishcleaning station so he could learn to clean fish. Thanks to Steve and Tammy he ended up cleaning 5 trout—good job Doug.

Also a special thanks to Larry Hoort for not only helping to set up Raffle/Information Booth, but being at the show from beginning to end and pulling several shifts in the Raffle/Information Booth. Wayne Huff also did two shifts. Many thanks to the following members for helping with shifts in the booth (I hope you had as much fun as I do working the booth and meeting so many people):

Roger Arnold	Terry Sanford	Tongva Gonzalez	Wayne Huff
Greg Blankstrom	Dave Bieganski	Ron Hunt	Mike Scott
John McLaren	Eugene Dokum	Dan Thelen	

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.

"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 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)!

DNR News: 5 Salmon Limit Proposal

The Michigan DNR has put the possibility of changing the 2009 salmon/trout limit regulations on the table and is asking for input from the public. Currently the regulation is a maximum of 5 salmon & trout of any species but a maximum of 3 of any species. The proposed change would allow for up to 5 to be salmon (Chinook, Coho, or Pink) but keep a maximum of 3 for Steelhead, Brown, Brook, Splake, and a max of 2 Lake Trout. Go to this link on the Michigan DNR web page for more information and to email your comments.

<http://www.mi.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153--191030--,00.html>

SPRING RAFFLE

The Mid-Michigan Steelheaders are very grateful to the following that donated our Spring Raffle prizes:

- ◆ HOLIDAY INN WEST BAY TRAVERSE CITY
- ◆ INGHAM COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER (for donating the muzzle loader)
- ◆ GARY GRAFT (the custom rod)
- ◆ MICK LURCH (the reel)
- ◆ MEMBERS DAVE BIEGANSKI AND GREG BLANKSTROM (the 2 fishing trips).

Without these people our chapter and programs couldn't survive.

WOW! This club's members are awesome! Whether you bought 1 pack of tickets or sold 100 packs of tickets, you helped to make this a great raffle. Each one is very much appreciated. Gerri's put forth a challenge to the membership to each sell 25 packs and she would try to sell 50 packs. She met her half of the challenge and the following members also met the challenge: **Larry Hoort, Terry Sanford, David Hodges, Doug Herbruck, Eugene Dokum, John McLarren, Pat Quinn, and Sandy Roudebush.** Larry, Terry, David, and Pat surpassed the challenge. Good job everyone!

In our special members raffle; Dave Hodges and Herb Miller were quite happy to win custom made rods.

This has been a very fun week calling Raffle winners (Too bad everyone can't here the various reactions in person):

- Harold Henry was very excited to be called first (he thought I was joking). He's so happy, he's already made his reservations at the Holiday Inn.
- Laverne Carr couldn't believe his ticket was second and very happily chose the muzzle loader.
- Mike Ruccine couldn't wait to return the call, from the voice mail I left. He has a fishing trip planned and can't wait to use his new Gary Graft rod and the reel.
- Ted Roudebush
- Sandy Heyboer said "oh, a fishing trip?" a little disappointed, but son Kevin couldn't wait to call back to say he's excited to go salmon fishing.

Grand Haven - May 24

By Port Capt: Larry Hoort

Outng nuber two is at Grand Haven. As I said in the March President's Corner, I goofed on the campground reservation thing. So like a couple of years ago I will be staying at the Fountain Inn on US31 (616-846-1800 or 800-745-8660). Rooms are inexpensive and we had no complaints. I know some are planning on staying aboard their boats in the City Marina. (616-847-3478).

In a "normal Spring", by the middle of May the **Kings** should be in town. Last year I was fishing in a charity tournament about the same time. We were just north of the harbor (we being almost everybody). Good catches were reported on anything that glowed. High on the list of favorites was any version of Dolphin, but if you prefer flashers and flies pearl and white seemed popular

Weigh in and lunch will be in the "overflow" parking at the boat launch. Contact Larry at 517- 243-1766

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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May 19 General Membership Meeting at Buddies' in Holt

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**Mid-Michigan
Steelheaders**

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