

**SOUTH HAVEN STEELHEADERS
MEETING MINUTES
South Haven Moose Club**

Date: September 15, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Antonson, Chapman, Dehn, Foster, Morris, Strong

Number of members present: 34

Number of guests present: 1

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order by Dehn at 7:00pm.

Prior to the start of the business meeting, Dehn introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Rick Balabon, President of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA). Rick has been President of MSSFA since 2004, and is an active fisherman on a pro team, and also fishes out of Grand Haven with his son, and out of Manistee on his own boat. He is an instructor with "the big three" and at a local college in eastern Michigan. Highlights of his talk are as follows:

- The MSSFA newspaper, Great Lakes Sport Fishing News (GLFSN) has had a lot of South Haven articles in a recent edition, thanks to Kevin Ailes who has been submitting many articles lately. Rick said that we need more local people from Chapters to do what Kevin is doing to stock the newspaper with interesting articles of local interest.
- Finances at MSSFA are, as is its history, very tight, but is in the black and solvent. It has always operated on a "shoestring budget", and probably will continue to do so until we have a significant surge in membership.
- There will be another Sea Grant Workshop this winter in Ludington on January 7th, 2012. Two significant issues will be future stocking of the lakes and the microtag fish marking project. He urged members to attend; cost is \$20 and includes lunch. There will also be some excellent raffles.
- Quagga mussels may start to be treated with a newly discovered bacterium named CL145a that does not seem to affect other species. Quaggas tend to inhabit a deeper range than zebra mussels, up to 200 feet deep.
- The MSSFA is currently looking at both Affiliate and Associate memberships; the former is still in the discussion stages and the latter is in use. Some Chapters do not provide Associate members with full benefits, and some do. The only difference is that the Associate has paid his state dues at another Chapter; he has still paid the full amount of the Chapter dues and should be recognized as a full member. A Saugatuck Charter Captains group is considering Affiliate membership.
- Rick mentioned the Steelhead Challenge Tournament in Holland this year. About 40 boats participated from Chapters around the state. The Tournament paired up local West Michigan boats with boats from other areas to create camaraderie between Chapters. He encouraged more members to participate in future Challenge Tournaments.
- A Dr. Howard Tanner Award has been created by MSSFA to recognize non-MSSFA persons who have contributed significantly to the fishery in Michigan. It will be an annual award, but may not be given every year.
- At the last MSSFA meeting, Dr. Stokes, head of the DNR, gave a presentation on issues with the fishery. He is promoting direct cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships between his organization and others throughout the state. He also reported that the Passport Program for state parks has been very successful its first year; a minimum of 17% of drivers renewing their license plates needed to participate, and 24% actually did. Michigan is #1 in America for state parks, but #49 in funding its state parks.

- Senate Bill SB248 is being considered in the legislature. It will limit the amount of land the state can own; Rick and others at MSSFA think it will have a detrimental effect on sportsmen's access to hunting and fishing activities.
- MSSFA has a new address; it is PO Box 8034, Holland, MI 49422. It was moved to help the new Executive Director, Dennis Eade, operate efficiently.
- Rick announced that the South Haven Chapter is currently the largest Chapter in the state! Several others are close behind. Rick talked about a membership recruitment program that he is coordinating that will put members who sponsor new members into a raffle with some great prizes; the more folks you recruit, the more chances you have to win. This year we have 150 new members and MSSFA would like to have many more join. One boat captain has urged his guest fishermen to join MSSFA instead of contributing to gas for their fishing trip; other captains might want to consider doing the same.
- A 27 pound Coho salmon was caught recently near Frankfort, MI.
- There's not much news currently with tribal issues. Jim VanderMaas is the liaison with the Native American groups.
- On February 18, 2012 there will be a Steelhead Seminar open to the public at D&R Sports in Kalamazoo. They are looking for presenters and volunteers to help put on the programs.
- Greg Gumbrecht, President of the Flint Chapter, is currently running the membership files for MSSFA and doing a great job. He also runs the MSSFA web site.
- Rick ended with a brief history of the MSSFA state office structure and its day-to-day activities, followed by a brief Q&A session.

At this point, the business portion of the meeting resumed.

I. Secretary's Report:

Due to the late hour, it was suggested that the secretary's report for August be deferred to October to be reviewed along with the September report. *Motion by Filbrandt, second by Antonson, to approve. Passed.*

II Treasurer's Report: Chapman provided a treasurer's report for August/September, 2011. *Motion by Antonson, second by Wilson, to approve the report. Passed.*

III. Correspondence: None
A.

IV. Old Business: None

V. New Business:

A. 2011 River Tournament: Kathy Pyle reminded members about the tournament on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. More information is at The Porthole.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion by Filbrandt, second by Matthies, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Foster, Secretary