



Mid-Michigan Telegram March 2008



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

President's Corner

MARCH the month of transition from winter to spring. Time to start putting up the winter toys and freshen up the summer stuff. So have fun at the Sport Shows that are left. This will come out after Flint's show but Grand Rapids is the 13th to the 16th. And of course we have the Lansing show in the middle of April.

Well the swap meet is now history I can't speak for others but I had a good time even if the booth I was manning was very quiet. We had a good amount of traffic on Saturday. Sunday I think we found out why these are usually one-day affairs.

April is just around the corner and with it comes the start of our summer outing schedule. First up will be St. Joe. Followed by Grand Haven in May. Have to admit here I messed up with trying to run it out of the State Park. I forgot that the State Parks on the Lake Michigan shore fill up FAST. More details in the Tournament section.

Hope everyone is doing well selling their tickets, at this exact moment I am slightly ahead of Gerri on our annual challenge and *enjoying it immensely.*

Tight Lines!
Larry

**March
2008
Meeting**

When: MARCH 17 will start at 7 pm (6 pm social/dinner hour)

Where: Buddy's in Holt (corner of Holt & Aurelius Roads)

What: Steve Dennis will present "Ludington Hot Spots and Techniques". Steve is owner/captain of Fishbone Products and Fishbone Charters out of Ludington. Should be very useful since we are having an outing later this year (August).

Please remember to bring unsold raffle tickets, stubs and money to this meeting. Put name or initials on back of the stubs.

FishDog will be at many of the Spring Fishing Shows. Stop in and say hi!

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

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Membership Page

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Bob Hicks	Tony Pagliei	Bill Madsen	Nathan Peabody
Joe Convery	John Hubbel	Seelah Hills	Doug Liu
Jamie Owen	Chet Kapusinski	Cheryl Davis	Dave Rummel
James Griggs	John Kaufmann	Thomas Cleven	Steve Pickard
Bruce Baird	Larry Eliason	Mike Shewell	Capt. Brett Payne
Leroy Paul	Ron Bosma	Robert Silvers	Wayne Huff
Ron Hunt	Greg Blankstrom		

JANUARY DUE

Paul Rogers	Jeff Bustos	David Hershberger
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FEBRUARY DUE

Ben Baker	Josh Baker	Brian Bielecki	Tasha Dinger
Dennis Higlemier	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	Steve Pickard	Sam Ross
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	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 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

February Meeting Summary

Mike Boedeker did a great presentation on “Ice Fishing”. Mike won third place in the North American Ice Fishing Championship and had some very good tips for anyone interested in doing some ice fishing. Great job Mike, we enjoyed your presentation.

We were happy to see so many new members attend this meeting; also some people came (as guest) to see if they might like to join our club.

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.

"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)!

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

SWAP MEET

Saturday morning was looking pretty good for this event. People were waiting in the lobby for the doors to open at 9:00 am. The “sellers” showed up between 6:00-6:30 am to get the booths and tables set up and we were looking good! It was exciting with all the things people brought to sell (great stuff). Then the doors opened...we had a lot of people from 9:00 am – Noon and everyone was happy. Then it happened...we only had people trickling through until 7:00pm. Sunday was slow, people were coming, but only a few at a time.

The up side is that everyone had pretty good sales and our chapter picked up 18 new members. We also got a jump start on selling raffle tickets and we didn't lose our investment in this project -- in fact we made a couple hundred dollars.

With this being our first one we had some mistakes to learn from. The most obvious mistake was not enough advertising/publicity – but we didn't want to put the event in the hole from the start with a big expense. Unfortunately many people said that they didn't know about it.

We have many people to thank for helping with the swap meet: the committee that worked hard to get this first event going (Pat Quinn, Ryan Gilbert, Larry and Gerri Hoort); the Mid Michigan board for agreeing to advance the funds needed for this event (site rental & advertising); Dennis Dann for working with The Lansing State Journal and Community Newspapers for advertising; Dave Hodges for making arrangements with Duran Martinez to make several announcements on his radio show on 730 AM.

(<http://www.amoutdoorsradio.com>)

A big thanks to all of the vendors and individual sellers for renting booths and tables. And last but not most important our members that volunteered to help (without members helping throughout the year we could not survive): Roger Madsen, Bill Madsen, Steve Markucki, Bob Clark, Ron Hunt, Pam Bieganski, Mark Redburn, Pam Redburn, Jenny Quinn, Nathan Peabody, John McLarren, Eugene Dokum, Rick Travis, and Doug Herbruck.

A very special thank you to Tony Pagliei for donating 2 prizes over \$100 value each for daily raffle, to help our treasury. Also a huge thank you to Eugene Dokum who won the raffle prize on Sunday and then donated it back to the chapter.

LANSING SPORT & BOAT SHOW

The Lansing Show will be April 11 through 13. We will have a MMSTEELHEADERS booth where we sell Raffle tickets, give club information, renew memberships and sign up new members. We ask our members to volunteer to help man our booth. We also clean the trout that kids catch from Trout Unlimited's Trout Pond and need volunteer's with fish cleaning skills! Please let Gerri know if you're able to help at either booth. Some of us will be there from Thursday morning set up through Sunday evening tear down; **each member is being asked to volunteer only a few hours of your time** for your club. This is our best opportunity to sell any remaining raffle tickets to the public. As our primary fund raiser for the year we need to sell the tickets to do the activities we want in the coming year.

Showspan runs the show and is very generous with our chapter. We also ask you to pick up posters for this show at the March 17 meeting and help Showspan by putting up posters where ever you can: grocery and party stores, bars, barber shops, gas stations and anywhere else you can put posters up.

Tickets to get into the show are available to those with current memberships. If you aren't able to attend the March membership meeting to get your ticket and would like it mailed to you, send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Mid Michigan Steelheaders

P.O. Box 321

Sunfield, MI. 48890

Did you know???

Coast Guard Stations around the Great Lakes will not be equipped to monitor DSC radio transmissions on VHF channel 70 until 2011. Your DSC radio still transmits the distress signal and your LAT/LON – the Coast Guard just does not monitor it. The USCG does monitor VHF channel 16 for distress calls.

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

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.

M.U.P. Rig

The MUP in MUP Rig stands for Magnum Up. This technique of adding a fixed slider to a downrigger line is like any slider with two lures on the same line but specifically uses two spoons of the same pattern but one large and one small. The larger (mag or super-mag) of the two is on the slider - generally fixed 5-10 ft above the main lure. The main lure should have a longer lead than the slider.

Fishing

Humor

Three blondes are sitting by the side of a river holding fishing poles with the lines in the water. A Game Warden comes up behind them, taps them on the shoulder and says, Excuse me, ladies, I'd like to see your fishing licenses.

We don't have any, replied the first blonde.

Well, if you're going to fish, you need fishing licenses. said the Game Warden.

But officer, replied the second blonde, we aren't fishing. We all have magnets at the end of our lines and we're collecting debris off the bottom of the river.

The Game Warden lifted up all the lines and, sure enough, there were horseshoe magnets tied on the end of each line. Well, I know of no law against it, said the Game Warden, take all the debris you want. And with that, the Game Warden left.

As soon as the Game Warden was out of sight, the three blondes started laughing hysterically. What a dumb Fish Cop, the second blonde said to the other two, doesn't he know that there are steelhead trout in this river?!

2008 Outing Info

St. Joe - May 3

By Port Captain Ryan Gilbert

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 good 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.

Grand Haven - May 24

By Port Capt: Larry Hoort

Outing number 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

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

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.

Greg Blankstrom is port captain and will have more details in the near future for this outing.

Out of Temperature Kings

Most documentation says the preferred temperature for Chinook is 52 to 54 degrees. One problem... none told the Kings in Lake Michigan. The last few years it has been very common to catch Kings in temps anywhere from 42 to 65 degrees - way down deep and up on top with the steelhead. Don't just target where the temp probe says the 52 degree water is. The temp might be there, but the fish might not be. Watch the graph for active fish & baitfish (alewife) and set lines there to catch more Kings "out of temp".

Ludington - August 2

By Port Captain Ryan Gilbert

Another new port for a Mid Michigan outing will be Ludington. Manistee and Ludington are usually battling it out each year as the best port on Lake Michigan. Starting in late July the King salmon start staging off Big and Little Sable Points with the feedbag on preparing to run the Muskegon, White, Pentwater, Pere Marquette, Sable, and Manistee rivers. Ludington is right in the middle of the action. If you want to catch the biggest salmon of the season, this IS the place to be.

Ludington has two nice launch ramps and also has nice public and private marinas with transient docks. For those that don't want to camp, there are lots of motel/hotels.

If you think you want to be part of the Ludington outing, please contact Ryan (517-505-2010) as soon as you can so that we can start to get numbers together.

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

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What's Inside???

- Page 1: March 17 -- Membership Meeting at Buddy's in Holt
- Page 2: Membership renewals list – check to see if you're due
- Page 4: 2008 MSSFA Membership Challenge
- Page 5: Lansing Sport Show info
- Page 7 & 8: 2008 Outing Info



**Mid-Michigan
Steelheaders**

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