



FEBRUARY 2005

WALLEYE LINES

FMWU, Inc.: Promoting conservation,
sportsmanship and education in
respect to walleye fishing.



7th Annual Anglers Night

FEBRUARY 17 at
PLAYMAKERS PAVILLION

Special Guest ~ Legendary Angler **GARY PARSONS**

Gary Parsons, of Glidden, WI, is a professional walleye fisherman, specializing in tournament fishing and walleye fishing promotions. Gary is a "Legendary Angler" inductee into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, one of the co-hosts of the popular The Next Bite TV show as well as one of the co-hosts of the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World television program, both airing on The Outdoor Channel.

Gary's seminar, "Walleye tips for getting your next bite" will cover the finer points of all walleye fishing presentations from jigging to trolling. He'll cover such topics as finding walleyes, determining the right presentation, and then using the right gear to get bites. Gary's program will start at 7:00. The doors will open at 6:00 so please come early to get a good seat.

WDAY Radio & TV, Gate City Bank, Riverside Sportland and Miller Beer sponsor Anglers Night.

WDAY Sports produces a half hour program, "Great Outdoors", which is a favorite among the area's hunters and anglers. Gate City Bank is North Dakotas #1 home lender and has 8 locations in the area to serve you. Riverside Sportland in Breckenridge, MN carries Lund, Sugar Sand and Sea Swirl Boats along with Mercury, Johnson, Evinrude, Yamaha and Honda Outboard. Miller Lite Beer, distributed by Beverage Wholesalers.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

without your support this program would not be possible!

Doors open at 6:30 and the program will start at 7:00 on March 18th at Playmakers Pavilion. Please use the North Entrance.

Free Prizes, Free Admission! Get there early for a good seat.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 15
Board Meeting

February 17
Anglers Night
Gary Parsons
at **PLAYMAKERS**

March 3-6
Sportsmans Show
Fargodome

March 15
Board Meeting

March 17
Annual Meeting
*Chili Feed, Swap Meet
and Awards*

March 19
Dinner Dance
Courtyard by Marriott

**ALL MEETINGS AT
7 PM AT THE
DOUBLEWOOD INN
OF FARGO, UNLESS
OTHERWISE STATED.**

President's Comments

Every year February and March provides lots of events for club members to be active in. We have Anglers Night with Gary Parsons, the Annual Meeting and Chili Feed featuring a swap meet, and the Dinner Dance. I hope everyone can attend at least one of these functions. It is always fun to see club members enjoying themselves at meetings. Our last meeting drew a large crowd of around 200 people. They were treated with a great seminar put on by Tommy Skarlis. The February program has potential to draw a crowd of 400-500. I hope all of you will make an effort to be there and share in the fun.

Best Fishes,
Chad Maloy

FM WALLEYES FIRST ANNUAL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT SWAP MEET

As part of our Annual Meeting on March 17th, F-M Walleyes will facilitate a swap meet for members. This event will allow our members to reserve a table and sell or swap any outdoor related equipment with the exception of firearms and ammunition. Firearms and ammunition of any kind will not be allowed. This is your chance to sell or swap those extra rods, reels, decoys, artwork, lures, tree-stand or what ever you may have that is either taking up needed space (for something new or better) or something that sparks bad feelings between you and your spouse! We want to keep this an outdoor related event so if you have an old toaster or old records better save them for your yard sale this spring. There is no charge for reserving a table. Set up starts at 5:30 and the swap meet will begin around 6:00 and end at 7:30. Due to space limitations we will have 20 tables available on a first come-first served basis.

*If you would like to reserve a table please contact either
Steve Goldade at 293-1350 or Russ Tweiten at 729-2940.*

We look forward to seeing you all on March 17th at the Doublewood.

The Annual Dinner Dance

*will be held Saturday,
March 19th at the Courtyard by
Marriott in Moorhead.*

*Please call Chad maloy at 293-
2491 or Ron Sahr at 293-1918
to reserve your tickets.*

Openings on the Board

*The following officer/board position terms will
expire in February 2005.*

• **Treasurer** • **2 Board Members at Large**

If you are interested in being a leader of your club, please let a member of the Board of Directors know that you are interested. Phone numbers are listed on the back of the newsletter.

**Annual Meeting • Chili Feed •
Swap Meet**
March 17th, 2005 ← **Members Only**

January Meeting Review by Jeremy Frie

Tommy Skarlis on Jigging and Trolling

Tommy Skarlis, a walleye pro from Walker, MN recently entertained a large crowd at the January FM Walleyes meeting. Trolling and jigging techniques were discussed.

Trolling – A great way to catch fish! If you're not catching fish, try something different. Match your color and size to the available bait. A great place to start is the local fish cleaning shack. Open up a fish to see what they are eating.

-super tune your lures

-use crank bait snaps to attach the lure to the line (less wear and tear on the line)

-remember, walleyes will come up 10' to hit a lure, but won't go down even 1' for the same lure.
-to get small lures deep, try the 50:50 method. 50' of line from the bait to the snap weight and 50 feet of line from the snap weight to the rod.

-separate the water column into thirds and place a bait in each area to cover water.

-drive erratic...lots of turns can trigger a strike.

-use a line you are comfortable with. Mono or braid each work fine.

-if using leadcore, attach a Fireline leader.

-a split shot attached 3' ahead of the bait will help grab suspended weeds and keep the bait running true.

-Do lots of things with the rod. Leave it in the holder, pump it back and forth, twitch it, all to trigger strikes.

-keep a good bend in the rod

when fighting/landing fish.

-consider putting some type of scent on a crankbait.

Jigging – Tommy's favorite way to fish walleyes.

-color is least important. Fish with something you are confident in.

-3/8-5/8 oz jigs are his most favorite. Don't be afraid to go heavy!

-small minnows may work a little better as they are more active.

-consider adding a stinger hook. Leave the stinger hook unattached from the minnow.

-lip hook all minnows. Keep them alive!

-place the knot as far back on the jig as you can for better jig placement for the fish.

-Set the hook on everything. Jigs are inexpensive.

-Change up your jigging technique if they are not biting.

-be sneaky. If the water is clear, you may have to pitch the jig away from the boat.

-consider adding scent to the jig in addition to the minnow. Gulp, sprays, etc.

-hit lots of spots. Keep moving to find active fish.

*FM Walleyes Unlimited
would like to thank Tommy
Skarlis for a great
presentation.*

*Don't miss out on February's
meeting featuring walleye
pro Gary Parsons.*

*See you February 17th at
Playmakers.*

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Fourth Annual YMCA Ice Tournament

By Ron Sahr

The YMCA, along with FM Walleyes, and several other sponsors held their 4th annual ice fishing tournament on Big Cormorant Lake January 29th. The tournament was moved one week later due to bad weather on the scheduled date of January 22.

Nearly 200 adults and youths ventured out to fish the tournament. The YMCA sold 308 adult tickets and 165 youth tickets. The YMCA will realize a profit of \$7,000 from this tournament. The money will be used for many worthwhile projects, for many kids that attend the Y camp each year.

The weigh master was kept very busy during the two-hour tournament with many perch, northern pike, one walleye and a few rough fish being weighed in. FM Walleyes donated 75 rod and reel combos to the YMCA which were provided to the many youth that were bussed in for the tournament. Many of these kids were experiencing the joys of ice fishing for the very first time. The first ten largest fish in both the youth and adult divisions were presented with cash or prizes. Your raffle ticket also gave you a chance at many valuable prizes. It took over 40 volunteers to put this tournament on. Over all it was a warm day, and everyone had a great time.



FM Walleyes would like to thank the following volunteers for rearranging their time to help with this tournament: Chad Maloy, Ron Sahr, Louis Wander, Bob Jensen, Jeremy Frie, Ken Cumber, Steve Goldade, Pete Montplaisir, Rich Tholkes, Cody Wateland, Scott Stillwell, Steve Hall, Lester & Victor Sjoblom, Lynn Johnson, Jerry Borgen, Don Marty, Larry Williams, and Tom Bedore.

Fishing Personalities

by Jack Fuller

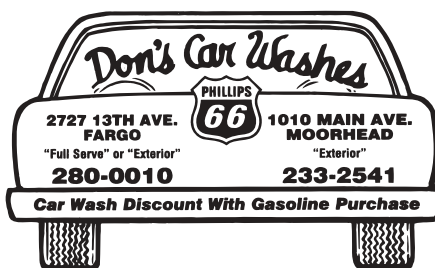
Bradley Urlaub

Once in a great while we all find a time when the "fish gods" smile on us, where luck and skill combine to make something good happen. This was the case last Wednesday, February 3rd for Brad Urlaub.

Brad and his father were fishing Crappie on Pipestem near Jamestown. They had been at it from 5:45 a.m. that morning, when about 2:00 p.m. they started catching some decent Crappie. They both were using light tackle; Berkley/Shimano rod reel combos, 4lb. Berkley ice line, a plain hook (the smallest Gamakatsu Octopus they make), and a Crappie minnow. It was nearing sunset and they were about ready to leave when dad's bobber went down. He grabbed on,

felt the weight, but the fish came loose. Moments later Brad's line was going out. He set the hook and the drag started to sing. Working the fish for 5-7 minutes the bobber emerged with another line draped over it. The fish ran again with Brad doing his best to play him, while dad took up the extra lines so the fish would not get entangled. 10 minutes later the bobber came up again and Brad could see the back of the fish which covered the entire width of his 8 inch hole. After a couple more runs, Brad was able to get the head up into the hole and grab a gill plate. What flopped out onto the ice was a Northern, not just any Northern, but a 24 lb. 43 1/2 inch Northern with a 22 1/2 inch girth.

Now for "the rest of the story" as Paul Harvey would say. Looking into the mouth, Brad found two treble hooks embedded with a steel leader attached to that tip-up line



that he saw earlier draped over his bobber. He cut it loose and let the line go back.

This fish was probably in a feeding frenzy. Perhaps first taking the bait on a tip-up (the nearest one was about 75 yards away with no one around it), then attacking his dad's line and eventually grabbing Brad's.

It was quite a sequence of events and a long fight, but Brad was able to work him in on that small hook and light tackle (so much for needing heavy equipment).

Brad is pleased with his catch, as he should be, and is having it mounted to go on the wall.

Good job Brad!



FM Walleyes Board Minutes January 18, 2004

Meeting held at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND

All directors present, three guests in attendance: Ron Sahr, Glen Metzger and Rich Tholkes.

Ice fishing rods were rigged for the Y-Camp kids fishing event at 6:00 pm with the board meeting called to order by president Chad Maloy at 7:15 pm.

Treasurer Bob Jenson reported \$5505.04 account balance

Motion by Jeremy Frie, seconded by Bob Jenson to approve the minutes from November and December with wrong date for dinner dance in November minutes noted.

Old Business

Annual meeting discussion: will have swap meet, chili and trophy's given out...discussion for logistics and details followed.

Upcoming tournament discussion with main sponsors on track - with details to follow.

Dinner dance discussion: All on track with tickets being passed out and going on sale now. Steve will again make a cabinet for the event. Need to get out and get prizes from interested businesses.

Ron reported all on track for the Y-Camp event

Distinguished Member Award was discussed and committee will handle with the presentation at the Annual Meeting

New Business

Lester reported membership forms, etc., are ready for the upcoming meetings.

Chad reported Skarlis for January and Parson for February all ok.

Motion by Lynn Johnson, seconded by Steve Hall to purchase \$500 worth of rods/reels, etc., for upcoming meetings. Motion passed.

Chad reported Bruce Bokinskie will be in charge of the calendar raffles and will have them available for the upcoming meetings

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm by Lynn Johnson, seconded by Steve Meyer.

Bruce Nereson, Recording Secretary

DINNER DANCE DONATIONS NEEDED

Each year we hold our Dinner Dance as a way to break up the winter and have a fun night out with our friends. The 2005 Dinner Dance is being held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead on March 19th. This is another big fundraiser for FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. We are in need of donations and prizes for the event. If you have something to donate or would like to approach local businesses, your help is greatly appreciated. If you have a donation please call me at 293-2491 or Tim Amble at 236-8698 so that we may make an inventory of prizes.



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Bait Free Winter Walleye

I had a couple of rods lying next to me and I thought I knew a thing or two about how to use them. The rod that I was using had a Jigging Rapala with a minnow head. This was the rod and lure that I had good luck with the night before. Same rod, same lure as before so I was feeling good or lucky you could say. The rod that sat next to me on stand by had a small Flyer with a minnow hooked through the head.

My game plan was pretty simple. I was pretty sure that I could catch a few walleyes that night on the trusted Jigging Rap. But... If I couldn't, the Flyer with a whole minnow seemed to get them if nothing else would. A one, two punch made sense to me but I was about to find



out that my reasoning was going to make little sense to the fish that night.

The bottom reading on the Vexilar jumped and bounced almost nonstop that night. I had fish follow my lure four feet up off the bottom. I pulled the lure away, bobbed the lure, held it still, pounded the mud, tried everything I could think of to trigger a strike. I switched baits, retied, tried different colors and baits but to no use. Nothing, notta, not even a strike. Argh, I was frustrated. I had a lot of fish coming through underneath me and I could tell by some of the marks that there were some good fish in the mix.

The whole while, the sun kept sinking lower into the horizon. The trees that lined the shoreline of Grahams Island had an orange glow as the sun set that evening. This was

prime time for walleye and I was running at the end of my rope. Once it got dark, it would be over. As the orange faded to pink, the realization set in that it wasn't going to be my night. I just couldn't catch them.

Parked next to me was a good friend of mine, Jim Legacie. Jim and I work together during the winter guiding ice fishermen. In fact, Jim was one of the original Perch Patrol Guides, guiding on Devils Lake long before I came into the picture. I hadn't had a chance to visit much with Jimmy that day so I decided to reel in and go over to his truck.

When I got close enough to talk to Jim, he was hanging out the door of his pickup reeling in a walleye. Not too bad a fish either. I jumped in the cab and we started to visit. I wasn't really paying attention when the first fish came up the hole but the second fish perked my curiosity. Jimmy smokes about five packs of cigarettes a day and can carry on a conversation with a cigarette between his teeth. When I asked him what the heck he was using to catch those fish, he replied, "Chubby Darter." Jimmy looked like he was smiling when he said "Chubby Darter," but he was just biting his cigarette and moving his lips to talk.

I couldn't believe it. This Chubby Darter was at least four inches long. Jim went on to catch six walleyes in a row in the next fifteen minutes. Some of the fish hit the Chubby Darter so hard that Jim had to use a plier to remove the swallowed hooks. No bait on the hooks, Jim just dropped this

naked lure down to the bottom and started jigging. The hits were hard. Seeing what I saw that night changed my attitude on winter walleye fishing forever.

Not to say that I didn't believe aggressively jigging a lure wouldn't catch walleyes. I knew there were times when you didn't need bait on a Jigging Rap and I had used lures like Sonars before with some success but in my mind, the aggressive bites always happened in March, last ice. I had made my mind up that the middle of the winter called for subtler tactics that incorporated bait. Jim proved my ideas on walleye fishing were dead wrong that night. On a night when the fish seemed impossible, Jim Legacie caught a dandy limit of walleyes on a four-inch hard lure with no bait.

The real kicker was that I was supposed to be using these Chubby Darters to catch walleye. You see, I have been involved with Vexilar for many years. This past year, the owner of Vexilar, Steve Bauman bought the United States distribution of Salmo Lures. Salmo makes the Chubby Darter. In the real world, I need all the help I can get and have every kind of lure known to man. But in the fake world of fishing for a living, I was supposed to be using the Chubby Darter. I had a hard time in my head, however, relying on the Chubby Darter to catch walleye. I had great success with pike and caught a few walleyes but overall wasn't that impressed with these lures that cost seven bucks a piece.

This all changed after the night Jim Legacy caught several fish on the largest Chubby Darter Salmo makes while I sat and caught nothing with baits I was much more confident in. What I learned from watching Jim fish the Chubby Darter was that I was working the lure wrong in my earlier less productive attempts. Jim worked

Bait Free Winter Walleye, *continued*

this lure like an angler would work a jerk bait in the spring, short pauses between pumps. Lift, pause, and lift pause. The lure needed a little bit of slack on the drop and the action looked "good." Walleyes hit these baits much like a crankbait as well. The strikes were amazing.

Needless to say the next morning, I sat pretty close to where Jim caught his fish and I had a Chubby Darter on. I caught a few fish that morning. Some fish would come in so fast that the Vexilar really wasn't as crucial for marking fish. When a big red mark did come up off the bottom, it seemed to help if you kept raising and bobbing the lure up and away. If you dropped down to the fish, it seemed like the Chubby Darter would come towards the fish and to the side where the fish couldn't see.

Once I got over the mental hang up that I thought I needed a piece of minnow to consistently catch walleye, I fell in love with the Chubby Darters. Not relying on bait is something new for me. So often in fishing, nothing ever happens that is actually new. While aggressively working baits like

Chubby Darters, Sonars, Cicadas, Jigging Raps and the like with no bait has been going on for some time, there is a lot of exploration to be done on walleyes and artificial lures through the ice. Seeing what I have seen the past few winters, I dare say that there will come a time when many anglers will target walleye with no bait and have better success than the folks who sit in one hole and watch a bobber. Not to mention that the fish you catch with these bait free artificials are often larger as well. Much like using crankbaits in the summer.

I am writing this column in the end of January and this tactic of pumping Chubby Darters has accounted for more big walleyes this winter on Devils Lake than anything else I have seen this winter. The folks up at Lake of the Woods are saying the same thing. A winter version of a crankbait bite is quite interesting. The first time a walleye darts in and about jerks the rod out of your hand, you will be rethinking your own theories on winter walleye fishing as well.

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Membership Application and Renewal

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. – An area sportsman's club, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of walleye fishing, invites you to join and actively participate in our fishing club New Renew
Application for Membership: \$20 Junior Member (under 18) - FREE

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Do you own a boat? Yes No Would you like to fish with other club members? Yes No

E-mail: _____

Membership requirements: Persons desiring membership must be those who can act in a sportsmanlike manner and will be a credit to the organization. Receipt of this application, yearly dues and approval of the Board of Directors are required for membership. Mail application to:

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 1017, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Signature of Applicant: x _____

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