



**JANUARY 2011**

# walleye Lines

*Promoting conservation, sportsmanship and education in respect to walleye fishing.*



## CRAIG STAPON, ROGER STEARNS, & JASON GAUTHIER WILL BE TALKING ABOUT GREAT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA

### CRAIG STAPON

Craig started musky fishing in 1976 on LAKE OF THE WOODS. He has been guiding for over 32 years. The best year I ever had was 2005 with 225 Musky in the boat and 31 over 50 inch...23 that I caught myself. My best guess is that I have boated close to 300 over 50 inch. I have several lures and rods named after me. The Red Oktober is a great musky rod and the "CRAZY CRIPPLER" has also put many big fish in the boat.

I started my radio show, "Let's Talk Fishing" in 2007 and at peak average 32,000-35,000 listeners per show!

Craig has also been on the Lund Pro-Staff for 7 years.

Fact is... I just love to fish! I've been married to my wife Pat for 32 years, 1 son Justin, 26 years old.

Have been doing seminars @ the Mid-Canada Boat show for 10 years. Craig works at Winnipeg Sport and leisure selling boats, quads, sleds and motorcycles!



### ROGER STEARNS

Roger has been ice-fishing Lake Winnipeg for 28 years, from Grand Rapids south to the Red River. Recently he has been guiding In-Fish Ice Guide Television the last 2 ice seasons. He has always strived to educate people in the most recent methods as well as keeping abreast in the latest industry developments.

He is respected locally for his commitment to make people better anglers.

Roger has 4 Top 15 finishes in his last 6 events held on Lake Winnipeg out of Pinefalls. He has also been referred to as

"The Most Technical Angler in Manitoba" by numerous industry sources.

### JASON GAUTHIER

Jason has been a MC Partner for many fishing and fundraising events with Craig Stapon

Worked in the Paper Mill Industry in Pine Falls Manitoba from 1988 to 1998

Hotel owner operator for 15 years



**Doors open at 6:30pm at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo ND. The seminar starts at 7pm. See you there! Bring a Friend! This seminar is free and open to the public.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 20th**  
General Meeting  
Roger Stearns & Craig Stapon  
Public Welcome

**January 22nd**  
2011 Annual Dinner Dance  
El Zagal Shrine, Fargo ND  
See page 3 for more details ...

**January 27th**  
Lake Winnipeg Greenback  
Excursion Seminar  
Scheels from 7-9pm

**February 3rd**  
Board Meeting  
Kelly Inn at 6pm  
Members Welcome

**February 17th**  
Annual Membership Meeting  
at the El Zagal Shrine.  
Doors open for members at 6pm  
Free Chili & Fixings while it lasts  
Election of Board Members &  
Officers starts at 6:30pm  
General Meeting starts at 7pm  
Professional Fisherman Chris  
Gilman is the guest speaker

**FEBRUARY 26TH**  
**MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE**  
Make sure to renew before then  
so you do not miss a Issue of  
Walleye Lines

**March 3rd**  
Board Meeting  
Kelly Inn at 6pm  
Members Welcome

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

**President's Comments...** Happy New Year Everyone!!!

With 2010 ending and the new year coming in with a double blizzard (10" of snow), my snow blower got a huge workout!

This month is very busy with the Dinner Dance and the YMCA Youth Ice fishing event happening on the same day, January 22nd.

I would like to give a "Special Thank you" to all the Board Members, Volunteers and Club Members for your help in making the Anglers on Ice / Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame Induction / Walleye University meeting a great success.

Come join us January 20th at the Doublewood Inn for a very exciting evening. Roger Stearns and Craig Stapon will be talking about Ice fishing for "Giant Walleyes" on Lake Winnipeg; you won't want to miss this.

See you on the hard water, *Gary Sauvageau President*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**JOHN & MAVIS ASKEW,  
ERIC BJORKMAN, JASON GREEN,  
DAVE HAAMAN, CURT HAGEN,  
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## **ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011**

Doors open @ 5pm

Dinner @ 6pm

Dance from 8pm to 12am

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1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100)

**Contacts:**

**Tami Stillwell 701 367 6741 or [stillwelltami@ideaone.net](mailto:stillwelltami@ideaone.net)**

**Sahr's Sudden Service, Ron Sahr 293-1918**

**Or any of the FM Walleyes Board Members**



## ANGLERS NIGHT, ON ICE – HALL OF FAME RECAP

### **Mr. Walleye, Gary Roach formally inducts FM Walleyes into the Freshwater Fishing Hall Of Fame at “Anglers Night, On Ice!”**

The December 9th, 2010 “Anglers Night, On Ice!” event at the Kelly Inn was definitely a significant night in the life of FM Walleyes Unlimited. Not only was it the kick off of the hard water angling season, celebrated with guest speaker Steve “Zippy” Dahl of the famed Devils Lake “Perch Patrol”, it was the official induction ceremony into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. What a more fitting person to formally present this honor than Mr. Walleye himself, Gary Roach.

The evening began with the FM Walleyes University class “Beginning Ice Fishing and Safety” where 23 youngsters attended five stations to learn what to bring out on the ice in case of an emergency, ice thickness and safety, winter water rescue, ice fishing equipment, ice rods, reels and tip ups, and how to land, handle and release fish through the ice. Those who participated were recognized in front of the crowd that was on hand as the regular club meeting began.

Dan Hammer of the local sports radio station 740 The Fan was the guest emcee for the evening’s event, warming up the crowd and getting them focused on fishing and the outdoors. After recognizing the youth participants from the FM Walleyes University class Dan brought the attention to one of the event’s guests, Gary Roach. Known as “Mr Walleye” to most of the people in the room, Gary is a legend in the sport of walleye fishing, as a tournament angler, product innovator and ambassador of the sport. Gary spoke about how he began as a youngster enthusiastic about fishing and eager to find a profession that would allow him the opportunity to spend time on the water. His first job was as a fishing guide with a 14’ aluminum boat that he would rent and a 10 h.p. motor which he would have to carry down to the lake each time that he would take a client out fishing. After serving our country in the military Gary returned to guiding as part of the famous Nisswa guides. As the years went on Gary developed a reputation as a knowledgeable angler going on to fare well in local and professional tournaments. Today, Gary represents Lund Boats, Northland Tackle, and his own Mr. Walleye Batter Mix. He has had boats, fishing tackle, fishing rods and many other products bear his name.

Gary went on to share that his induction into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame was a highlight of his career and something that he will cherish forever. The current FM Walleyes officers and board of directors joined Gary at the front as he spoke about the honor of being inducted into the hall of fame. He stated that this was the most significant award that he has ever had the privilege to present. He then formally presented Gary Sauvageau, current FM Walleyes Unlimited president, with the induction plaque. Upon accepting the award to a standing ovation from the audience, Gary and several members of the current board spoke about how this recognition was a tribute to all of the individuals and sponsors who have worked and contributed throughout the 33 year history to make the club what it is today. On hand were charter members Arnie Ellingson, Gary Hasse, Gary Korsgaden, and Gary Sauvageau as well as many past club presidents, distinguished member award recipients and other influential members. Current board member Kyle Agre said after the event, “to look out into the crowd and see the faces of so many people who have contributed so much to this club was incredible. They are the ones who have made this club what it is today, without their efforts this wouldn’t have been possible.”

Following the hall of fame presentation, club member and professional guide Dave Randash took the microphone and introduced the “Anglers Night, On Ice!” speaker, Steve “Zippy” Dahl. “Zippy” is the founder of the Devils Lake “Perch Patrol”, a group of ice fishing guides who revolutionized guided ice fishing from permanent houses to a mobile approach covering water and searching for active fish. “Zippy” shared how the Perch Patrol began and how their philosophy of moving around to find the fish brought unparalleled success to their clients on Devils Lake. With vexilar flashers mounted to the dash of their trucks they seek out schools of perch in the open expanses of the main basin of Devils Lake. Never staying in one place too long and always trying to stay on top of the school necessitate fishing light and portable. “Zippy” now takes clients out in his “unstoppable” suburban equipped with snow tracks instead of wheels and carrying a portable shelter on the front and rear bumper.

The evening ended with the customary raffle prizes that close most FM Walleyes Unlimited meetings. This time there was a surprise though. Mr. Walleye, Gary Roach donated a guided trip for two to be sold by an impromptu silent auction that night with proceeds going to FM Walleyes Unlimited. “Zippy” Dahl followed by donating a guided ice fishing trip for two to Devils Lake. Thanks to the winners, club members Joe Roach and Jim Wood, the club received \$1,500 from this generous act. The money raised will be used to support FM Walleyes Unlimited club programs.

# HALL OF FAME PHOTOS



Gary Roach



Presenting the Award



Gary Sauvageau reacts.



The Board Receiving the Award



Setting up for the Raffle



Past Presidents



Joe Roach – winner of the guided fishing trip with Gary Roach



Distinguished Members



Founding Members



## FOLLOW THE MINNOWS FOR BIG WALLEYE

### Ice fishing season will be 'interesting'

By: Complete Angler / Don Lamont

Ice fishing is in full swing with a spell of very cold weather. Anglers are always looking for information, especially at this time of year when everyone is just starting to get out on the lakes and rivers in Manitoba. Lake Winnipeg has been a primary hot spot of ice anglers for about six years now. Two of Manitoba's most knowledgeable are Roger Stearns and Lee Nolden. I have had the opportunity to ice fish with both of these individuals and their insight on the fishery is as good as any I have ever heard.

Lake Winnipeg

Stearns and Nolden both agree that when trying to find numbers of walleye, along with big walleye, clear water is preferred. Stearns says you can always catch walleye early in the season relating to perch, but numbers of fish are not as easily attainable until after the water clears up, usually after Christmas.

Here is Stearns' theory how the recent nutrient loading of the lake has affected the fishing in the south basin:

Lake Winnipeg has an issue with phosphates and nitrates. Phosphates and nitrates happen to be the best friends of zooplankton and plankton. Plankton is also the preferred food for shiners and other minnows. Keep in mind that zooplankton and plankton have zero ability to move other than up and down to be in their preferred light level. They are totally at the mercy of the current which is a key point to remember.

Now go back in history about eight or 10 years when the people studying the lake figured out that the Hecla causeway was causing a huge back eddy in the south basin. The rotation of the back eddy is headed north up the middle with the help of the river and headed south down the west side. The east side is affected as well but more like a back draft and not as strongly. Now that we have massive amounts of phosphates and nitrates and loads of plankton in combination with a back eddy the plankton just keeps going in circles and recharging with shiners. As it circles back out into the lake, picking up more and more shiners, it picks up walleyes. The back eddy pushes the plankton and minnows down the west side. The walleye follow the shiners down the west side, and to a lesser extent down the east side.

Plankton is lost in dirty water, not setting up in distinct pods like in clearer water. Plankton is always moving up and down in the water column to its preferred light level. The minnows follow that depth, which easily explains the abundance of suspended fish in the south basin.

Three and four winters ago the suspended bite was on fire for months, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The perch bite was still there but could get super hot when the walleyes pushed the shiners closer to shore. In the month of March the shallow bite in particular can really heat up. This could also be in part because of the upcoming spawn and the peak of the migration.

Stearns believes this will be an interesting ice-fishing season on Lake Winnipeg because of the heavy current flow coming out of the mouth of the Red River. A lot of his consistent big fish spots are in deeper water five to eight kilometers out from shore. He believes that farther out will be better to get away from the flow and heavily stained water. He also believes the east side will be the best producer for numbers of fish. This because it is less affected by water coming out of the Red River.

Despite poor ice conditions most experts are predicting another exciting year for ice anglers on Lake Winnipeg.

dlamont@mymts.net

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## POEMS BY ALVIN R. PLIENIS

*Hello from N.D. Veterans home in Lisbon. Thank you Scott for a wonderful day of fishing. The fellowship, the boat & weather made my day totally complete. I am including "The Ode of a Solitary Loon" that is a by product of a great day.*

*Thanks again, Alvin*

### The Ode of a Solitary Loon

The shrill cry of a solitary loon.  
A woeful sound of one alone. A sound  
that races from shore to shore leaving a  
silence of tranquility for the soul to absorb.  
Once again comes that haunting cry as that  
solitary loon disappears below the light waves  
only to rise and continue his serenade to  
a setting sun now ablaze with light  
dancing on shimmering ripples with a  
hue of sparkling diamonds.  
A moment of beauty mingled with the  
mournful shrill of a solitary loon  
A fleeting tick of time locked in my mind  
to be retrieved from time to time to  
hear again the serenade of a solitary loon.

*- Alvin R. Plienis, 06.11.2010*

My soul has found a resting place.  
A solid rock that will not be moved  
The rock of my salvation  
laid in place for all to see  
as a shining light on the path  
to life eternal.  
No more sorrow, no more strife  
a place of love and glory  
A rainbow of beauty crafted by a hand divine.  
Ours to view and then wonder  
why the love of God has mercy  
on one such as I.  
*- Alvin R. Plienis, 06.07.2010*

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Kyle Agre

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Scott Brewer

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## WALLEYE UNIVERSITY "ICE FISHING & ICE SAFETY"



*If you are interested in taking any of our Walleye University classes contact Kyle Agre at (701) 526-0262.*



## WALLEYE UNIVERSITY PHOTOS



*If you would like to submit a picture of your trophy or just a good memory  
please e-mail your photo to: [brian.dahlin@randscasework.com](mailto:brian.dahlin@randscasework.com)*

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, December 2, 2010 @ Doublewood Inn, Fargo ND**

Meeting was called to order @ 6.00pm by President, Gary Sauvageau.

Absent Board Member: Ed Liberda

General Members Present: Bob Jensen

Review of November board meeting minutes. Motion made by Ron Sahr to approve minutes as written, 2nd by Steve Meyer. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Current balance is \$4,781.60. Steve Hall made motion to approve current balance, 2nd by Scott Brewer. All in favor, motion passed.

Current Membership: 294.

October general club meeting attendance: 45.

Update club's master calendar. No changes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame 2011 Induction.** Scott has plaque in hand. Gary Roach (and his wife) will attend our Angler's Night on Ice to present the club with the award. Press releases have been distributed to approximately 600 newspapers and radio stations. Invitations have been sent out to past presidents, distinguished members and other key members over the years. The Forum will be running an article this coming Monday. Mike McFeely will interview Gary Roach prior to our meeting. A BIG thank you to Brian Dahlin for getting the timing of the newsletter adjusted this month for the announcement. Quick rundown of Angler's Night on Ice agenda: Dan Hammer, KFGO will be the MC of the Angler's Night on Ice program. Dave Randash will introduce "Mr Walleye" Gary Roach. Any necessary club internal information will be disseminated to the group. Zippy Dahl will have ice fishing presentation. Note: Northland Tackle will be donating a large amount of product to be distributed during the evening. General raffle and ice fishing package special raffle will be held.

**Speaker Update, Scott Brewer.** Thursday, January 20th general meeting will be held at the Doublewood. This meeting will feature Roger Stearns and Craig Stapon from Canada. February's Chili Feed and Annual Meeting will be held at the El Zagal Shrine. The speaker will be Chris Gilman a Ranger pro. March's speaker will be the Griz, Minneapolis fishing guide with possibility of Pete Harsh introducing him.

**Youth Education, Kyle Agre.** Ice fishing class will be held during the December 9th Angler's Night On Ice. The training will include 5 stations. We are looking for volunteers to help out, need 5 to 8 additional adults to instruct. Tami will make calls to general membership to secure additional volunteers. Good news that we currently have 18 kids signed up to attend.

**Dinner Dance, Tami Stillwell.** Event will be held on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011 @ the El Zagal Shrine in Fargo, ND. The band "Triple Play" will be providing the musical entertainment. Working on obtaining donations for the event. If you would like to make a donation (of any kind) or are interested in volunteering, contact Tami @ 701 367 6741 or email her @ stillwelltami@ideaone.net. Tickets are currently available at a cost of \$25 each. This year's ticket includes a cash raffle. NOTE: All tickets holders, whether present or not, will have the opportunity to win one of three prizes (\$300, \$200 or \$100).

**Sponsorship.** Don Marty has offered to return to the sponsorship committee. Thanks Don! The committee currently consists of Barry, Kyle, Scotty and Don. They would appreciate any input or assistance that anyone would have, please feel free to contact any of the board members in regard to this.

**Nominations Committee, Gary Sauvageau, Scott Brewer & Kyle Agre.** Committee will be meeting soon.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**YMCA Ice Fishing Event, Ron Sahr.** This year's event will be held outside on January 22, 2011 at the Fercho Family YMCA. Ron is again heading up the event. If you are interested in helping out, contact Ron.

**Distinguished Member Award, Steve Hall.** Committee will be meeting soon.

### **ROUND TABLE:**

**Kyle Agre...** 1) Received an email request from Brad Olson with the Boy Scouts. He is wondering if the club would be willing to help at Camp Wilderness on February 12, 2011 with a day event. They are looking for volunteers to help with fishing demonstrations, etc...  
2) Lake Winnipeg Trip tickets have been printed. Each person attending the Excursion is asked to purchase a ticket. Cost is \$30 and will help the club cover expenses incurred.

**Scott Brewer...** Is looking for any historical data on the club to compile. Some of the club's history is still pretty vague. If you have any or know of anyone who might have information, please contact him.

**Rick Mohan...** One time availability of the FM Walleyes Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame 2011 Induction commemorative shirts was discussed. Club will be placing the order after the January 20th general meeting. So you will still have one last chance to order these. Just fill out the order form and write your check and you can be the proud owner of one of these beautiful shirts.

Motion to adjourn @ 6.47pm by Barry Chouinard, 2nd by Steve Meyer. All in favor, motion passed.

**The next board meeting will be @ 6pm on Thursday, January 6th @ the Doublewood Inn.**

Please remember that all general club members are welcome to attend board meetings.

*Respectfully submitted by Tami Stillwell, Recording Secretary.*





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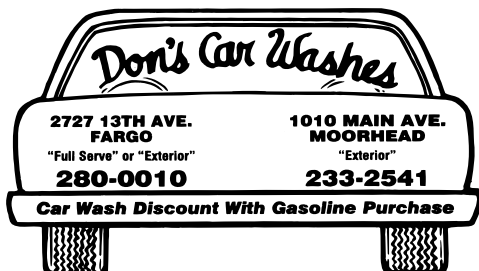
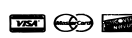
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## Membership Application and Renewal

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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.

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