

NOVEMBER 2008

WALLEYE LINES



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

Thursday, December 4th

"Anglers Night - on Ice!" with GORD PYZER



Gord Pyzer is back by popular demand with a brand new ice fishing seminar.

Gord Pyzer is widely regarded as Canada's most technical fisherman and is known in fishing circles as "Doctor Pyzer". Gord worked for thirty years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

An internationally sought out speaker and seminar presenter, Gord is the Fishing Editor of Outdoor Canada Magazine; Field Editor of

In-Fisherman Magazine and Television; Co-Host of the nationally syndicated, Real Fishing Radio Show; and the Outdoor Editor of the Kenora Daily Miner and News, Fort Frances Times and Grainews.

Join us for an evening "on the ice" at the Doublewood Inn of Fargo Doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

This meeting is free and open to the public.

A special thanks to our sponsors for supporting the *"Anglers on Ice Program"*.

Without the support of sponsors, FM Walleyes Unlimited would not be able to provide the quality programs we have enjoyed over the years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2Board Meeting

December 4

Member Meeting
Gord Pyzer
Anglers Night - On Ice!

December 16Board Meeting

January 13Board Meeting

January 15

Member Meeting Jason Przekurat

February 17Board Meeting

February 19
Annual Meeting
Members Only
Election of Officers
Mark Christianson

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

News Talk Sports

WDAY

AM 970



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This year's "Anglers on Ice" sponsors are:

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President's Comments...



If you missed our Oct meeting, trust me you missed a good one. Ross really brought up some interesting observations about those elusive eyes. Really enjoyed listening to his thoughts on catching walleyes, and the fact that he is on the water with clients almost everyday of the week.

Fall fishing is in full swing, and from some of the reports it has been pretty good, even yours truly managed his personal best on a area lake. Wish I could report the same from our trip to Pine Falls, but Barry again got a free dinner. While we were at Pine Falls had a very interesting discussion and more news will be coming at our next meeting. I will give you a hint – get your ice fishing goods together for next March.

On a sad note, with the passing of Tony Dean, FM Walleye's Inc lost a good friend. Our sympathies and good thoughts go out to his family.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting and bring a friend!

Steve Garten, President

Welcome to our newest sponsor, Wigwam Resort!

Wigwam Resort is situated on the Minnesota side of Lake of the Woods, right at the mouth of the Rainy River. The grounds are spacious and wooded. They have both cabins and lodge rooms and offer a wide array of ammenities year-round.



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FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. • FM Walleye University

The youth educational program, FM Walleye University, will kick off a series of four sessions available to youth of all ages. Each session will be held from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m., prior to the regular FM Walleye membership meeting. Attendance is free, but pre-registration is requested.

- * Thursday, December 4th: Beginning Ice Fishing
 - o Safety, equipment, and tactics for the upcoming ice fishing season will be covered
 - o Level: beginner to advanced youth angler
 - o Openings available for 18 attendees
 - Thursday, January 15th: Fishing 101

- o Back to the basics of fishing
- o Level: beginning youth angler of any age
- o Openings available for 24 attendees
- Thursday, February 19th: The Right Equipment for the Right Fish
 - o An in-depth discussion of rods, reels, lures and line
 - o Level: intermediate youth angler
 - Openings available for 18 attendees
- Thursday, March 19th: Introduction to Electronics
 - o Basics of sonar, map reading, GPS and marine communication
 - Level: intermediate to advanced youth angler
 - o Openings available for 18 attendees

RSVP to reserve a spot in any or all classes: Kyle Agre 701-526-0262 or kyle.agre@gmail.com Provide your name, the name of the individual(s) that will be attending & your phone number.

October Meeting Recap

At the October 16th FM Walleyes club meeting those in attendance heard Ross Hagemeister share some tips and ideas on walleye fishing. Ross has been guiding the Ottertail Lake area for thirteen years and has found that a solid foundation of basic fishing skills and techniques are the key to consistently catching walleyes. Commonly logging 60-70 hours of fishing per week guiding beginning to advanced anglers Ross realizes that most clients just want to have fun catching some fish. Ross' philosophy of "using what works, not what the books say to use" came out loud and clear to those who were listening.

Although jigs are always an option, most of the time Ross and his clients can be found using bottom bouncers. Ross pointed out that the key attribute of the bottom bouncer is its ability to stir up the bottom, replicating the dust and dirt that might be found where walleyes and/or perch are feeding on the bottom. This, along with the simplicity of the bottom bouncer, makes it the perfect approach when taking a boat full of anglers out on the water. Ross typically pulls bottom bouncers with spinners and crawlers moving less than 1.5 miles per hour. In fact,



he shared that sometimes he fishes them without moving at all. "Spinners don't have to spin," Ross stated, "they work just as well at attracting fish just hanging in front of the hook." In most years Ross will go through approximately 25,000 night crawlers. He does not become confined by the calendar as to when he will or will not use them as bait. In fact, he continues to use crawlers right up until the end of the open water season. Ross shared that he stores his crawlers at home in dirt, but keeps them in a small cooler, rinsed and on ice while fishing. He pinches the crawlers in half and uses a worm blower to prevent them from becoming too stretched out.

Ross shared some other clues that we can watch for while on the water. He is constantly aware of where each fish that he catches is hooked. Often times when fish are hooked in the bottom lip, it can be a signal that the bite is slow and the fish are in a negative mood. When this happens Ross will likely move to a different area of the lake in search of active fish. When searching, Ross knows that he will be unable see 90% of the fish on his electronics that are in an area he wants to fish. He uses his electronics, but doesn't depend on them to show him fish. Rather, he spends his time searching with his rod in hand and bait in the water.

NOMINATIONS FOR FMWU DISTINGUISHED MEMBER NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

To nominate a person please write as much information as you can about the nominee. All nominations will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Distinguished Member Committee. Deadline is Feb. 10th, 2009.

Mail your nominations to:

FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc.

PO Box 1017

Moorhead, MN 56560













Walleye Words of Wisdom

By Carl Madson

Walleye are remarkable in how adaptable they are in a variety of environments. From the stained, featureless and often shallow prairie lakes to Canadian Shield lakes, the water where walleye flourish is extremely varied. Good walleye water can be a small natural lake in Northern Minnesota, one of the many bays located off of the Great Lakes, fertile prairie lakes and just about any aquatic environment in between.

Do all lakes have great or even good walleye fishing? No. But with such extremes in environments and lake types, there is no wonder why angling techniques and strategies vary across so much of the frozen North. With so many contrasting types of water, so many different forage bases and other variables like visibility, available structure and population densities, there is no one size fits all secret to locating and catching these popular fish. Despite such drastic differences however, there are some general rules of thumb that do seem to play over and over. We picked the brains of some of the top winter walleye sticks for many of the tactics and strategies in this article. What we found interesting is just how similar walleye often act and how similar ideas where concerning walleye movements, presentations and locations, often hundreds of miles apart on bodies of water that might be drastically different.

Shallow Walleye

Many great winter walleye anglers we interviewed for this story agree that shallow water (less than seven feet) is much more productive than the masses of anglers imagine. Many anglers have a difficult time fishing shallow water wrongly assuming that walleye usually relate to deeper structure. According to Devils Lake guide, Jason Mitchell who has been one of the key members of Devils Lake's famed Perch Patrol Guide Service for many years and designer of a high quality line up of application specific ice rods that are getting rave reviews (Jason Mitchell Elite Series Ice Rods) shallow water walleyes are often overlooked and admits that deeper structure and more traditional locations might hold more fish but the fish they find up shallow are often bigger. "We often find larger fish on shallow sand flats. If these shallow shoreline flats have relatively close access to deeper water and perhaps some green weeds, that seems to make these spots better, explains Mitchell. Often, fish movements on these shallow spots revolve around sunrise and sunset but there might be some fish that move through these spots towards the middle of the day, especially with cloud cover. You could actually sight fish if you want to. What surprises me is just how late in the morning you can still sometimes catch these fish."

Mitchell believes that these fish are much more sensitive to angling pressure. "These fish usually turn off when a crowd gathers and you almost need a milk run of spots to check so that you can keep resting spots because these fish don't seem to withstand angling pressure very well." Jason adds that water clarity doesn't always make sense. "I used to believe that stained water was better for these shallow patterns but I have found that these patterns still persist even when we can see down ten feet or more. This isn't just a first and

last ice pattern either; we often find fish shallow during the middle of winter."

Shallow walleye are generally aggressive walleye that call aggressive presentations at least usually, according to Mitchell. "The fish do seem more aggressive at either first light or last light and yes aggressively jigging spoons like Lindy Rattling Flyers or swim lures like Chubby Darters. Jigging Shads and Nils Masters trigger some pretty veracious strikes but these fish can be temperamental just like any other walleve. Good



Devils Lake Perch Patrol Guide, Jason Mitchell, wrestles up a beautiful shallow water walleye.

Photo by Mark Strand.

visibility in clear water later in the day can demand switching to more subtle approaches. We can sometimes watch these fish and that can teach you a lot about how to adapt." Guide: Jason Mitchell, Perch Patrol, www. perchpatrol.com

Get Off the Bottom

According to Northern Wisconsin guide, Jim Hudson who has a knack for catching beastly walleyes from Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior, many anglers make the mistake of fishing too close to the bottom. "As a general rule of thumb, walleye will relate closer to the bottom when relating to structure or shallow water, adds Hudson. On the Great Lakes, many larger walleye however will often suspend or roam the basins relating to baitfish that are usually suspended." These fish can see a lure from a distance in this often clear water and are used to moving up to feed on fleeing baitfish.

Hudson stresses the importance of using a Vexilar to determine where there is baitfish activity in the water column. "Often, we see bait on the screen before we actually see larger marks indicating walleye. If we aren't seeing clutters of bait off the bottom, chances are there are no walleye either." Lures show up better when presented above the fish and fish that come up to chase the lure are more likely to hit. "I imagine that the profile is easy to find when silhouetted above the fish

and the water is so clear that I think these fish can find a lure from quite distance. some Whenever you can get a fish to commit to the lure by shooting up, you also have a muchbetterchance with that fish," adds Hudson. Jim relies on an aggressive snap jigging method incorporating Chubby Darters to land several walleye over ten pounds each winter. If the current is too the strong for



Jim Hudson from Hudson's On the Spot Guide Service uses unique strategies for catching big walleye on big water.

Chubby Darter, Hudson will switch to large spoons. On the Great Lakes, chrome or silver is tough to beat for color. *Guide: Jim Hudson, Hudson's on the Spot Guide Service, www.fishchequamegonbay.com*

Structure Subtleties

As winter progresses, fish house communities spring up across the walleye belt. As a general rule of thumb, these on ice homesteads will often mark out all of the

popular structure that is available. On many popular lakes, you can almost map out humpsandreefsby where the masses permanent fish houses are located. Areas that see significant fishing pressure often cool off fast. With GPS and map chips, there seems to be few secrets anymore. According Mille Lacs guide, Cory Studer who also works Vexilar Marine (highly regarded



Cory Studer of Walleyes Plus Guide Service.

as manufacturers of leading ice fishing sonar) the best walleye fishing often occurs away from the crowds on subtle structure that doesn't often attract attention. "The mud flats on Mille Lacs are usually productive as soon as the ice is safe enough to reach these areas but the fishing can last all winter, explains Studer. The mistake many anglers make however when trying to pin point structure is looking for too much. Walleyes will often hold, relate or funnel through dips and bumps on the mud that might vary by less than two feet. These spots don't show up on map chips. Often on flats and on basins, good structure is often subtle, nothing dramatic, just some small variance to stop or stall wondering walleye. Forage determines the details of the presentation. Tullibee or young of the year perch might cause walleye to suspend over the mud but again, we often find fish suspended above or off some type of subtle form of structure. Insect larvae might pull the entire food chain right into the mud where the fish become bottom orientated so use your Vexilar to determine where to fish in the water column." Guide: Cory Studer, Walleyes Plus Guide Service, www. walleyesplus.com

Bits and Pieces

All three of these anglers are seasoned guides and highly regarded by their peers in the ice fishing community. All three anglers are also Ice Team Power Sticks, a distinction given to some of the most influential ice anglers in the Ice Team organization, www.iceteam. com. While the water that walleyes swim can vary, anglers on any frozen body of water can take bits and pieces of this shared wisdom and apply it to their home water. Chances are some of the information regarding presentations, patterns and locations revealed by these top ice pros will work on walleye under the ice near you.

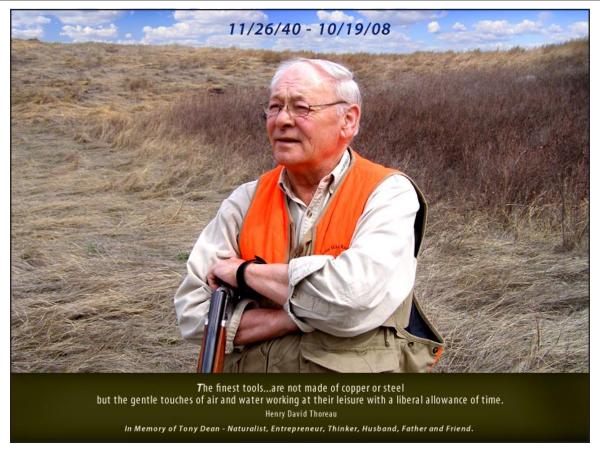
Don't Forget the Annual Dinner Dance

PRIZES! FOOD! FUN!

Dance to Mojo Boogie Band!

Saturday, January 31, 2009 El Zagal Shrine Center 1429 3rd St N, Fargo, ND

Please contact Tami Stillwell @ (701) 367-6741 if you would like to buy tickets or have an interest in helping with this event.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES-TUESDAY, October 14, 2008 @ Doublewood Inn, Fargo ND.

Meeting was called to order @ 7.00pm by President Steve Garten.

Steve Meyer, Tami Stillwell, Don Marty absent.

General Members Present: Ron Sahr

- Review of last month's board meeting minutes. Motion made to approve minutes by Chad Maloy, second by Steve Hall. All in favor, motion passed.
- Financial Report by Barry Chouinard: Current balance is \$6839.22. A List of cash expenditures was handed out. Barry mentioned that he had roughly \$1,900.00 in deposits that he is still waiting on.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Speakers, Chad Maloy. Ross Hagemiester is scheduled for this Thursday's general membership meeting.
- Angler's Night on Ice, WDAY will be the main sponsor. Don Marty and Chad Maloy will try to get additional sponsors. Gord Pyzer is set.
- Angler's Night, KFGO will be the main sponsor. Don and Chad will try to get additional sponsors. Tony Dean was set but due to his untimely passing we will need another speaker
- Youth Raffle, Scott Brewer. Ticket sales were 421 for a total of \$2105 in sales.
- Cormorant Tournament, Barry C. 83 entries were received the Saturday & Sunday format was a success.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting be prepared to discuss the AYA tournament in detail. Looking for new ideas.
- Barry talked about a fund raising event where we could bid on a Al Linder Speaking engagement on March 4, 2009. Chad motioned to table it until a later date, seconded by Ed Liberda All in favor...passed.
- Dinner Dance, Tami Stillwell. The 2009 Dinner Dance has be scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2009. It will be held at the El Zagal Shrine. The MoJo Boogie Band will again provide the music. Tickets have been printed and are now available. Please contact Tami @ 701 367 6741 if you would like to buy tickets or have an interest in helping with the event.
- The YMCA ice Fishing Tournament will be indoors again this year on Jan 17
- Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8.35pm by Steve Hall, second by Brian Dahlin. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

The next board meeting with be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 @ the Doublewood, Fargo ND.

We encourage the general membership to attend any or all board meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Dahlin, Temporary Recording Secretary.

VISIT US ONLINE! www.fmwalleyes.com

Club information, current and back issues of the Walleye Lines and more!



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Articles for the 2009 January Issue of the Walleye Lines will be accepted through the 20th of DECEMBER

Car Wash Discount With Gasoline Purchase

Any photos, articles that you have written or printed articles that you have obtained permission to have reprinted will be accepted. For more information please contact Brian Dahlin, Editor of the Walleye Lines at: brian.dahlin@randscasework.com

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| E-mail: | | | | |
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Ed Liberda (exp: 2011) (701) 235-4993 edward.liberda@gmail.com

Gary Sauvageau (exp: 2009) (701) 235-5804 garysauvageau@msn.com

FMWU • FM Walleye University

The first youth education class in the 2008-2009 FM Walleyes University winter series, "Beginning Ice Fishing" will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4th. The class will take place prior to Angler's Night On Ice, featuring Gord Pyzer. Open to youth anglers of any experience level, we will focus on ice safety, equipment and tactics for ice fishing. It will be a great way to kick off the hard water fishing season.

Where: Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND
When: Thursday, December 4th @ 6:00 p.m.
Youth program will begin at 6 pm, followed by Angler's
Night On Ice @ 7 pm

Note: This will be limited to the first 18 kids who RSVP.

RSVP as soon as possible to: Kyle Agre 701-526-0262 or kyle. agre@gmail.com

Leave your name, child/children's names that will be attending & your phone number.

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