



SEPTEMBER 2009

WALLEYE LINES



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



Ed Carlson is a fishing fanatic that has been thriving on our local river, the “Red River of the North” for years. He has demonstrated a prowess for catching eye popping giants of both walleyes and catfish, fishing it from Wahpeton all the way up to Lake Winnipeg. Enjoying both soft water and ice fishing, Ed will share his fall fishing experiences and wisdom on this great local river in our September program.

Otherwise known as “Backwater Eddy”, Ed Carlson grew up near Lake Tewauchen National Wildlife Refuge and enjoyed the abundant fishing and hunting in the SE North Dakota region. He comes from a large farm family and they regard hunting and fishing as a way of life and a tradition to cherish. Over the years Ed has lived in Wahpeton, Fargo, and now Moorhead MN. His focus has been fishing on the Red and its tributaries.

In 1989 Ed’s cat fishing and walleye fishing came together and blended with his fondness for teaching others how to river fish. With some encouragement from friends he began seriously guiding on area rivers and formed “Backwater Guiding”, “ED on the RED”, a guide service that caters to the Red River and it’s tributaries. Ed’s move to Moorhead, MN has helped to centrally locate his guiding business on the Red River. Ed continues to work for Gander Mountain in Fargo as a fishing specialist and retail fishing sales lead.

Prior to focusing his attention on the Red River he had one walleye of trophy status over 10lbs. Within 5 years he put that benchmark to 90+ over 10lbs. All were river walleyes and most were caught at night. He stopped keeping track in “98”. His largest was a 15.05lb caught in the US region of the Red River in November of “97”. It was confirmed as In-Fisherman’s C&R winner Region one division. Backwater Eddy is confident that there are much bigger in our local waters and he hopes to prove so some day.

In more recent years Ed has concentrated his focus a bit farther down river, on the giant Greenback Walleyes of the Lower Red and on Lake Winnipeg in MB Canada. Ed is now confident that this region is the best kept secret for giant sumo walleye through the ice in the world today. Ed is confident the next world record is there and waiting for the right angler. Ed will be sharing his knowledge on this opportunity with us at the seminar. Ed has some insights to patterns and presentations that have proven effective for these giants of the North. Some of his revelations will challenge the common thinking on what these fish do, and when. This seminar will be an opportunity for a timely and interesting exchange for all who attend.

Ed is also very active on the world wide web and has had articles published on www.walleyecentral.com, www.Fishingminnesota.com, and www.fishingbuddy.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues., September 15th
Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Doublewood Inn, Fargo

September 17th
Ed “Backwater Eddy” Carlson will be speaking about Fall & Winter fishing opportunities.

September 26th-27th
Cormorant Classic
Big Cormorant Lake, MN

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



President's Comments...

Fellow Members,

A special "Thank You" to Ron and Kathy Sahr for hosting our annual picnic, a good time was had by all. The food was cooked to perfection and I really enjoyed seeing the look on the kid's faces when their number was drawn for door prizes. Also, congratulations to the young and adult winners from our club outings!

Our Cormorant Classic is just around the corner, looking forward to seeing old and new faces at this annual tournament! A special advance thanks to the YMCA for hosting and providing lodging. I believe there is still time to get in, so give Barry Chouinard a call and he will set you up.

I hope you all can set aside the third Thursday of each month this fall to attend our monthly meetings.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Steve Garten, President

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CLUB OUTING UPDATE - AUGUST 15TH AND 16TH RED LAKE - BIG BOG STATE CAMPGROUND, WASKISH, MN

By: *Steve Hall*

Well it seems like in August our Club Outings have been feast or famine. This is the second time the Club Outing has been held at this lake during August. Good place to go, because everybody loves to catch fish.

On Friday, I called to check on reservations and to get a fishing report. That's when things first started to not sound so good - this is what I got - "it's hot, flat and the fish are not biting". Whoa, that was a mouthful of something! No fish meant no fish fry Saturday. But this was Red Lake, they had to be biting somewhere. We had all the fixin's for the fish fry - beans, fresh corn on the cob and potato salad. When we checked in, it was just like they said, hot, no wind and an over abundance of the MN State Bird, or at least the mosquitoes seemed that big. We stayed in one of the little camper cabins and I did bring a little fan. Sometime after 11 p.m., when the Meyer's left for their campsite, the rest of us retired to bed. All the windows and the door were left open to get airflow. The wind started blowing and my fan stopped working, but I was just too tired to get up and check it out. About 5 a.m. on Saturday, I woke up, no lights, no fan, no coffee pot! For some of us, coffee is a necessity. I got out the propane fish cooker in order to boil water for coffee, just like my Grandma taught me. It was when we went in search of water we realized several trees had fallen during the night. The roadway was completely blocked, no way in, no way out, at least for awhile. No running water either. Between Don Denning and myself we had enough water to get the coffee on. Whew! Before too long, the park rangers began cutting up the trees to open up the road. It was about then we found out the lower campground had flooded due to the high winds backing up the water in the Tamarac River. It was "high tide" for those in the campground. Rumor had it that there was a Sasquatch sighting, seen in his white BVD's, running around trying to catch a tent. Some say it was Scott Stillwell. Now this is where those memories come from!

We finally got out fishing! Considering all the upset the night before, fishing was pretty good. The fish were not out deep in eight to ten feet as usual, we found them in six feet and less. We caught them on night crawlers, minnows, shad raps and X raps. I think they were saving their bites for us. Barry Chouinard and myself caught about 40 walleyes each day. Limit is four a piece. So, the fish fry was a success after all. Sunday started with a big breakfast, headed up by the crew. Then it was off to a repeat of Saturday, fish, fish and more fish! Check out the results below.

JUNIOR DIVISION

1st place:	Brianna Fitch	3 fish	5.68
2nd place:	Blake Meyer	3 fish	5.54
3rd place:	Derion Baker	3 fish	4.10

ADULT DIVISION

1st place:	Brian Fitch	3 fish	4.62
2nd place:	Steve Hall	3 fish	4.40
3rd place:	Steve Meyer	3 fish	3.92

Keep a tight line, as always, Steve.

HOW'S YOUR VELIXAR BATTERY?



When's the last time you charged your ice fishing battery? If you have not done it yet this summer, now is a good time to pull out your ice fishing battery and give it a charge. By far, most batteries fail during the long summer months of storage. Charge it up now. If you want to be sure that it won't go dead after a few hours of use, do a discharge test. Simply charge it up and then turn your Vexilar on and let it run. Hang the transducer a few feet off of the floor from a table top or workbench so you get a reflection from the floor. Turn up the gain so you get some good signal on the display. Let the unit run until the lights start to get dim. This should be at around 10.5 to 11 volts. You should get around 20 hours of life with an average 7 Amp/Hour battery at room temperature. Don't forget to recharge after your test.

Try to remember to charge your battery at least every other month (if not once a month) during the summer or when your unit is not in use. If you do, you'll be surprised how much longer your battery will last. I know we may sound like a broken record, but 99% of our service calls are battery related. So be sure to charge those batteries!

RECYCLED WALLEYE

By: Jason Mitchell



Not all spots are created equal. Some spots have the potential to hold a lot of fish. Some spots will also “recharge” faster. Recharge as in new fish moving in to take the place of fish that are caught. Sooner or later, however... too much fishing pressure will disrupt the school of fish making them more difficult to trigger and catch.

Fishing pressure often breaks up a large school of aggressive fish into smaller, scattered pods of fish that are not nearly as aggressive. Anglers often assume that stable weather and water temperature dictate how aggressive fish will be but the most important variable is fish concentrations. A lot of fish piled up on a spot are generally going to be aggressive because these fish have to be aggressive. Walleyes act much different when they are in the company of several other walleye.

Fishing pressure however can turn aggressive fish into passive fish because these schools of fish get broke up and thinned. Some lakes handle fishing pressure much better than others. Some spots also recycle with new fish much better. Recycling is crucial for spots to remain good. If new fish don't move in to take the place of fish that were caught and kept, the spot dries up... the schools get smaller and more scattered and the fish that are left get much more difficult to trigger.

Often, new fish will move into a spot during the night so mornings are a good time to strike. There are also times when we see a new movement of fish occur during the middle of the day when the water

warms up. Usually however, a period of rest is the best thing that can happen to a spot on most lakes. Week days might quiet angler pressure down but on heavily fished lakes, this period of rest will happen through the night. If you can imagine, scattered pods of fish pile onto a spot through the course of a night and accumulate. Come morning, the spot is recharged so to speak and the first boats on the spot pick off some easy fish until the school gets broke up again.

Late summer sometimes sees harsh weather systems that turn a lake upside down with strong winds. These major fronts often move fish around substantially. These fish that get moved around often pile up on the most obvious. Wicked fronts in late summer and early fall often recharge many of the “community spots.” By and large, community spots are large, obvious spots that usually hold fish but also attract a lot of angling pressure. Now a fish doesn't know what a community spot is but usually, the attractiveness of community spots declines because so many boats working a spot makes these spots much less productive. If there is a time however when you can slide into these large obvious spots that see a lot of boats all summer and actually do well, it is after biological conditions move the fish around the lake.

Often, fish that have been making some major movements in a system are much paler in appearance. The fish almost look washed out in color. Fish that have been in the area for a long period of time often get much darker and prettier. This tells you a lot about how a spot is recycling. If you are finding new fish moving on to a spot that are nice and dark, they are sliding in from somewhere nearby. Could be the open water adjacent to the structure you are working or there could be a lot of fish in a general area and that means some of the other nearby structures that are similar also hold fish. If the fish are really pale, this usually means these fish are on the go and a particular spot just stalled them long enough to be patterned and caught.

Your electronics will often reveal just how many fish are on a spot but often... if you see a few fish there could very well be a lot of fish regardless of what electronics you use. The best way to reveal fish on structure is to move the boat up and down the break. Generally, if I see a handful of fish on a break line, I feel pretty good about fishing it as there are usually many more fish tucked into the blind spots that occur when a sonar signal echoes back the shallowest reading within the cone angle but hides everything else deeper. Another good indicator as to how many fish are on a spot, are the bites themselves. Often if there are a lot of fish in an area, the fish will really run after hitting the bait which is pretty easy to distinguish if using live bait rigs or slip bobbers.

Most of the time by late summer, the community spots and obvious bites have been beat to death and are usually something to avoid but there are situations where fishing the obvious can be very productive. Knowing and understanding the factors that can make these spots good again can often mean catching more fish. As a guide, my focus is on production. I am not above fishing a community hole if that is what I have to do to catch fish.

Editors Note: The author, Jason Mitchell is one of the most respected professional walleye guides in the upper Midwest (www.fishdevilslake.net) and host of Jason Mitchell Outdoors Television (www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com).



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Contacts:

**Tami Stillwell 701 367 6741 or stillwelltami@ideaone.net
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Tuesday, August 18, 2009 @ Doublewood, Fargo ND

- Meeting was called to order @ 7pm by Vice President Don Marty.
Absent Board Members: Steve Garten, Barry Chouinard & Ed Liberda
- Review of last months board meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes as is by Scott Brewer. Second by Gary Sauvageau.
All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report - Barry absent, report to follow at a later time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Rooms, Steve Meyer. Rooms are booked for upcoming year.
- FM Walleyes Custom Rod Raffle, Scott Brewer. Sold tickets need to be turned in prior to September membership meeting. Drawing to be held at meeting on September 17th.
- Club Picnic. Last minute plans made for annual club picnic @ Sahr's on Thursday, August 27th. Everything seems to be in place. Board members are asked to be there as soon as possible to assist with picnic. Event starts @ 6pm.
- Upcoming Speakers. Ed Liberda absent. Will need to follow up with him to see what is in the works.
- Cormorant Classic. Everything is set & ready. The board asks that if Barry needs anything from them, that he email any requests that he may have.
- Dinner Dance, Tami Stillwell. New band is booked "Work Release". Should be a fun group to dance & listen to. Caterers are in place. The event will take place @ the El Zagal Shrine in Fargo on Saturday, January 23, 2010. If anyone has interest in donating money or items, or is interested in helping with the event; please contact Tami @ 701 367 6741.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Face Book, Kyle Agre. FM Walleyes now has a Face Book page. We have a number of members already. This will be a good networking tool & will increase the club's visibility. Possibility of adding fishing reports and want ads in the future.

ROUND TABLE:

- Steve Meyer** Picnic is set.
- Steve Hall** Club Outing trophies for the summer's events are ready to be awarded at the picnic.
- Scott Brewer** Reminder to continue to sell raffle tickets for the custom rod.
- Kyle Agre** He briefly reviewed the FM Walleyes University Boaters Safety Course recently held. This course covered all aspects of the class & prepped all participants for the exam that is required to pass to receive the certificate of completion. ALSO Kyle requests that anyone who has photos to share with the club of fishing, he would like you to forward them to him. He is putting together a board to be displayed at the meetings & events.
- Gary Sauvageau** Re AYA Tourney, if you get a chance to participate or volunteer for these tourneys...he wants you to know that it is a very rewarding experience.
- Brian Dahlin** Walleye Lines, please get stuff in early. He also mentioned that he has checked into adding an additional 4 pages to the publication. There will be an additional \$100 cost per newsletter. However, we feel that this will be offset with the additional ad space that this will allow. The additional room will allow us to add back the Members Caught article, possibly a Know Your Board Column, Area Lakes Fishing Reports, etc... Steve Meyer made a motion to approve the additional 4 pages per newsletter. Second by Scott Brewer. All in favor, motion passed.
- Don Marty** Wanted to thank Kyle Agre for the great job that he has done with the FM Walleyes Youth Education program!

Motion to adjourn by Steve Meyer @ 8pm. Second by Gary Sauvageau. All in favor, motion passed.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at the Doublewood Inn.

All members are encouraged to attend the board meetings, we value each and every one of your opinions.

Respectfully submitted by Tami Stillwell, Recording Secretary.

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*Articles for the
2009 OCTOBER Issue
of the Walleye Lines
will be accepted through the
30TH of SEPTEMBER*

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
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Fishing Log - By: Brian Dahlin

Anyone ever been out fishing and thought I was out here last year and slaughtered them but now I can't even get a bite, what am I doing wrong? Maybe this will help. Use this handy fishing log to document what was happening when you were catching fish. Just fill it out when you get back to the dock or right on the water and put it in a folder. The next time you are in a similar situation just look up what was working and give it a try. I'm not saying it will work exactly as it did before but it will give you a good starting point. Good luck.

Fishing Log

NAME: _____
DATE: _____ **LOCATION:** _____

GENERAL INFORMATION	FISH #1	FISH #2	FISH #3	FISH #4	FISH #5
Date					
Time Caught					
Length					
Weight					
MOON PHASE					
WATER CONDITIONS					
Temperature					
Clarity (dirty, muddy, clear)					
Surface (rough, choppy, calm)					
METHOD USED					
Still Fishing					
Trolling					
BAIT USED					
Lure Type					
Color					
Size					
Live Bait (Type)					
Live Bait (Size)					
Depth Caught					
PRESENTATION					
Slow Retrieve					
Fast Retrieve					
Other					
LOCATION					
Map Ref. Points					
STRUCTURE					
Weeds					
Lilly Pads					
Pier / Dock					
Rocks					
Wood					
Other					
SPECIES					
Bass					
Trout					
Blue Gill					
Crappie					
Walleye					
Catfish					
Other					
NOTES					