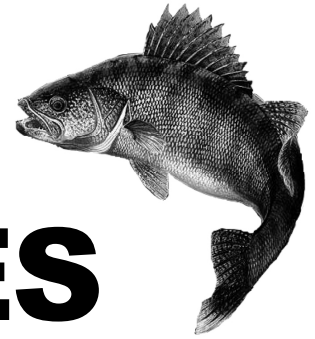




SEPTEMBER 2006

# WALLEYE LINES



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

## **Thursday, September 21 come join us to hear from Tom Johnson guide for Walleye Hunter Guide Service on Ottertail Lake**

Walleye Hunter Guide Service guide Tom Johnson is the featured speaker for the September FM Walleyes monthly meeting.

Tom was suggested to us by a club member, reporting— “Tom’s a great teacher on the water!”. Tom Guides on Ottertail Lake in the heart of Ottertail county. Ottertail Lake has been a popular destination this year for anglers with the consistent good fishing reports and added media attention from hosting a PWT Super Pro tournament. Tom will present his favorite tactics to pursue walleye as the seasons change and we begin the fall patterns. Please take the opportunity to come and learn from one of our excellent local guides. Tom is an avid outdoorsman, and is Elk hunting in Colorado just prior to our meeting. Tom may have some new stories to share with us on his outdoor adventures.



*Tom Johnson holding two of his fish  
from the finals of the  
2004 MWT State Championship  
on Woman/Girl Lake  
September 11 & 12, 2004*

*Join us on September 21 at 7 PM at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo.  
The presentation is open to the public, with free admission.*

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**September 19**  
Board Meeting

**September 21**  
Member Meeting - 7:00 PM  
*Tom Johnson -  
Walleye Hunter Guide Service*

**September 21**  
Cormorant Rules Meeting  
*Cormorant Supper Club  
6:00 p.m.*

**September 22 & 23**  
Cormorant Classic Tourney  
*YMCA Camp Cormorant  
Final Weigh-in and results  
on Saturday - 5:00 PM*

**October 17**  
Board Meeting

**October 19**  
Regular Meeting  
*Retired Game Warden  
-Tom Chapin*

**November 16**  
Board Meeting

**November 18**  
Regular Meeting  
*Dave Genz*

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

## President's Comments...

Dear Members,

Around 60 members appeared at the Sahr Ranch for the annual picnic. I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Steve Hall presented awards from the club outings. Club members walked away with a few nice prizes. The weather was perfect. We owe Ron & Kathy a big "Thank You" for their efforts in being gracious hosts to a bunch of crazy walleye anglers.

I also want to thank Barry Chouinard and Lester Sjoblom for all the work they are doing in getting ready for the Cormorant Classic. We expect another good turnout. Reports are we have over 80 teams already with more coming in each day. I have no doubt we will be around the 90 team mark again this year.

Best Fishes,

*Chad Maloy, President*

## Classic Tournament Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping out during the Cormorant Fall Classic Tournaments please call Barry Chouinard or Lester Sjoblom. Their contact info is on the back page. Volunteers will help launch and inspect boats, set up tournament trailer, take care of releasing fish and other duties as asked by the tournament committee.

## Cormorant Fall Classic Applications

Cormorant applications are available at Scheels, Sportsman Warehouse, Gander Mountain, Crystal Pierz Marine, The Pub and our web page.

## FM Walleyes Board Meeting Minutes

August 15th, 2006 Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Chad Maloy.

Absent members: Chouinard, Johnson, Sjoblom, Meyer, Nereson and Augustin.

Treasury Report...No report

Membership Report...No report

### Old Business:

Tournament Report by Steve Garten: Cormorant entrants at 60, working on volunteers, YMCA Camp all squared away, trailer ready. DNR will be contacted to clarify wording on possession vs. culling etc. for upcoming tournaments.

### Meetings Update:

August...Club Picnic at Sahr's

Sept....Ottertail Guide Tom Johnson

Oct....Retired Game Warden-Tom Chapin

Nov....Dave Genz

Jan...Jimmy Bell

Feb...Backer/Randash

Mar....Cody (Lund) is working on the possibility of Dan Sura, James Lindner or Dave Cassada.

Apr...Rapala Rep

Review of Club Outings: Steve Hall reported last on in on Upper Red Lake.

Web Page work in progress.

### New Business:

Trails & Waterways upgrade Cormorant Accesses. Will invite them to Sept. Board Meeting as well as the Rules Meeting for the Cormorant Classic.

Motion to adjourn at 8:09 by Jeremy with second Steve Garten. Passed.

*Thanks Ron and Kathy!*

*The picnic was great, the weather was perfect, only to be outclassed by your hospitality!*



## Anchors Away!

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

Walleye pro Tom Backer says there are times when fishing for walleyes has to be done as if you're putting a candy bar on the coffee table in front of couch potato trying to diet. He might not eat it right away, but wait an hour and that chocolate will be gone. Faster tactics like trolling or even slower approaches like rigging will not work all the time. Conditions may dictate jigging in one spot or suspending live bait below a slip bobber is needed just to entice a bite. The longer a walleye looks, the harder it is for it to resist. A cold front or just the cold-water periods of early spring and late fall are two examples when anchoring will work. "There are times when you get on a spot, drift a rig, and won't get any bites. But, you anchor, and bang, you get hit," said Backer, who recently caught a 13 pound walleye on a Fuzz-E-Grub jig while anchored at the mouth of the Winnipeg River as it empties into Lake Winnipeg. "The fish are there, but they're probably in a negative or neutral mood. The bait just needs to be in their face a little longer." There are other times when anchoring will increase your odds, such as when you're facing a stiff breeze or current and boat control becomes an issue. But, despite an anchor's effectiveness, it's likely that half the anglers reading this article don't even have an anchor in their boats. "Anchoring is overlooked," Backer said. It's time to rethink that choice.

### Anchoring with style

Anchors come in two shapes important to walleye anglers. One is a Water Spike type (lightweight with sharp points), which digs in clay, mud or sandy bottoms. The other is a Navy anchor (heavy with 2 large claws), or a variation on the Navy theme made by Richter (heavy with multiple points). Navy and Richter are both good on gravel, rocks or boulders. Have the two different styles (Water Spike and Navy) on board, which work for the different type of bottom conditions you may face. Buy big. An 18 to 20 foot boat needs a 26 or even 28 pound anchor. Smaller boats can get away with lighter weights, but err on the heavy side. They're useless if they don't keep you in place. Using 2 anchors at the same time can help. Have plenty of rope attached. If you don't use enough, you will slip out of place and disturb the spot. About 150 feet of rope per anchor should do. Mark it every 10 feet. If you have to reset them if you slip, you'll have an idea of how much to let out next time. Drop anchors quietly. They can spook fish if you don't. Backer gets an idea of what type of tactic he is going to try on a given day before he even gets to the water. The tip comes at the bait shop, and it's free. Simply glance in the minnow tanks. Tightly-balled minnows are responding to the same cold front which is impacting the fish in the lake. Anchoring might be the ticket that day. If minnows are swimming freely, then search tactics may come in play. The effectiveness of anchoring can change over the course of a single trip to the water, too. Walleyes that are active in low light may get lockjaw mid-day. Use an anchor as a tool to switch to slower tactics. Anchoring is a spot-on-a spot tactic. You must be close to where walleyes are concentrated for it to work. Watch for fish on the sonar. Don't be afraid to drop an Aqua-Vu camera down and take a look as well. But, you can ring the dinner bell even if walleyes aren't directly below you. For example, Backer is positive that there are times when two anglers jigging below the boat for a while has attracted curious perch to the area. At first, there might be nothing happening. Then, 20 minutes later you catch a perch. Then shortly after that, you boat a good walleye who followed the forage fish to the spot. The lesson learned = if action is slow enough that you are putting the anchor out, then give a spot some time. Twenty to thirty minutes is usually enough to tell if anything is going to happen.

*From Walleye Central*



While anchored at the mouth of Lake Winnipeg recently, walleye pro and club member Tom Backer caught this 13 pound walleye on a Fuzz-E-Grub jig.

*Continued on page 5*

from page 4

## ***Anchors away!***

Anchoring is a great way to approach “edges” where the depth changes or weedlines or treelines. Anchor one up on the top and the other down the drop. Check both depths. At spots like Devil’s Lake, anchoring can be done right at the edge of submerged tree lines. The depth where anchors are effective can vary. You might want to anchor in a breeze so you can cast small jigs to wood or weed edges in shallow water near a point that holds fish. Or, you may want to anchor to use slip bobbers to target a deep rock hump 40 feet down or more. In that case, anchor parallel to the waves and cast up wide with the weighted Pro Series bobbers from Lindy. Let the breeze work the bait over the structure for you. Set the depth at a foot off the bottom. The clearer the water, the higher you can get away with setting the rig. Anchors also help in current situations. There are times when trolling leadcore or three-ways or jigging in rivers just won’t work. Anglers have learned to hold themselves in one place with anchors at spots like the Rainy River, which empties into the Lake of the Woods, and the Winnipeg river. Backer (along with Ted) used an anchor to hold in current in front of a hump which broke up the current where the Winnipeg River meets the big lake. Active fish are normally on the front of the current break. Depth was 23 feet. The tool was a one-ounce Fuzz-E-Grub jig. The result was a 13-pound walleye. The anchor was anything but unlucky that day. Anchors are put to good use in rivers like the Mississippi. Rather than fighting the river with an electric trolling motor, use an anchor above the wingdams to cast crankbaits or live bait on three-way rigs at the base of the dam where active walleyes will stage to ambush forage which the river brings to them. Many anglers probably avoid anchors because of the work it takes to move to new spots. Well, not so fast. Change position in wind or current merely by moving the rope from the front of the boat to a cleat on either side. The motion of the water or wind swings you over new water to try. Letting out more rope does the same thing. But, don’t stay in one area so long that the post office starts to deliver your mail there. Try other places. If you’re so sure that the fish are there, fish the spot, come back later and try again. That couch potato just might be ready to reach for the candy bar when you return.



**Editor’s Note:** A top competitor on both the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail (PWT) and the Masters Walleye Circuit (MWC), Ted Takasaki won the prestigious PWT Classic Championship in 1998 and the 1995 PWT Top Gun Angler award. He was also a part of the MWC Team of the Year in 1991. He is a 5-time MWC and a 11-time PWT Classic qualifier where he has consistently finished in the top ten. Ted also won the coveted 1993 Mercury National Tournament held on Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin.

## **Club Outings - Year End 2006**

<b><u>Junior Division</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Fish</u></b>	<b><u>Total Weight (lbs)</u></b>
1. Matthew Kimball	14	24.50
2. Grady Stillwell	13	20.70
3. Justin Montplaisir	12	18.34
4. Lane Bowman	12	18.26
5. Nikki Hall	10	17.90
<b><u>Adult Division</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Fish</u></b>	<b><u>Total Weight (lbs)</u></b>
1. Scott Stillwell	9	14.70
2. Steve Hall	10	14.48
3. Dan Kaup	8	13.88
4. Guy Kimball	7	11.68
5. Pete Montplaisir	8	9.54

All of the year end trophies and 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> plaques will be distributed at our annual meeting in February.

## Club Outing - August 19th & 20th Upper Red Lake

*by Steve Hall • Photos by Steve Garten*

This was our last outing of the season. It was run out of the Big Bog State Campgrounds at Waskish, MN. It was well worth the long drive! Just beautiful. Great place to set up camp! They have camper cabins available at this park for the first time this year. They will be open all year round.



Being there brought back a lot of memories, old memories, 20 to 40 plus years. Maybe it was the walleyes, or a “sheephead” or two (freshwater drum). Or just remembering about the time Momma bear and her cubs showed up at camp and your dad or your grandpa told you to get in the car - no trucks to pull the boat back then. Good old days, maybe 5 or 6 people in a 16 foot boat with about 2 in free board left! A lot has changed today, but the beauty is still there.

We had a lot of fun! We had a fish fry on Saturday night. Might not sound like a big deal but considering the 2 fish slot, we did well in filling everyone up! Great assortment of dishes and treats were shared too! Breakfast was wonderful! The Stillwells’ cooked omelets in a bag, the Gartens’ cooked about 8 pounds of delicious bacon! Unfortunately, arriving late, my family missed hotdogs over the open fire on Friday night! My wife, Mary joined us this time! She was presented with a “Welcome Back - Walleye Club Outing Survival Kit” containing a variety things to make her weekend enjoyable, rattle trap, fishing line, mints, cookies, slim jims, tequila, lime,

etc. She was very grateful and she enjoyed herself a lot.

The fishing was a little slow but for August, it was pretty good! Everyone caught fish. Crankbaits seemed to be the hot ticket for most but spinners and jigs took a few in also. The big northerns seem to steal the show at times. “Stop the boat, I gotta snag!, no, it’s a fish, a really big fish!”

I have to mention Ron Sahr and his crew! There Ron was, with all his new electronics (GPS, flasher, two fish locators, 3 watches, a sundial, etc.) and he still gets lost on a lake! He must be a flatlander. Ya’ think?

I want to thank everybody that helped out this year. This was a very fun season. If you have not joined in on a Club Outing, I encourage you to think about including it in your next year’s plans.

Congratulations to Scott Stillwell for top honors this year in the Adult Division. Your name will look great on that traveling trophy! Congratulations also to Matt Kimball for his victory in the Junior Division this year.



Results from the July Club Outing held on July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Ottertail Lake.

**Junior Division**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Grady Stillwell	7.38 lbs.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brianna Fitch	6.92 lbs
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Matt Kimball	5.84 lbs.

**Adult Division**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dan Kaup
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scott Stillwell
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brian Fitch

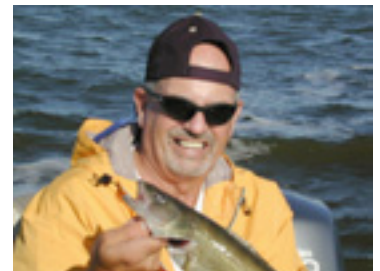
Results from the August Club Outing held on August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Upper Red Lake.

**Junior Division**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Nikki Hall	7.66 lbs.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brianna Fitch	4.66 lbs.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Justin Montplaisir	4.38 lbs.

**Adult Division**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brian Fitch	4.56 lbs.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ron Sahr	4.46 lbs.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guy Kimball	





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