



Sportsman Fishing Club

Enhancing the Environment and Fishing Experience at Shadow Lakes

20 YEARS

January 2014

1994-2014

Officers

President - Tom Lydon
Cell (630) 776-1625
tlydon44@gmail.com

Vice President - Mark Tullos
Treasurer - Andy Kaminski
Secretary-Lisa Tullos
IDNR - Mike Green
Fund Raising - Betty Lydon

The next meeting is Sunday
January 19, 2014

Club meetings are held
the third Sunday of each
month at the Shadow
Lakes Amenity Center.
Meetings begin at 9:00
am
Free coffee and donuts
are provided

Newsletter

Peg McQuarters / Tom Lydon

Website/Publicity
Mary Kaminski

Visit Us On The Web At:
www.sportsmanfishingclub.com

Club Mailing Address:
Sportsman Fishing Club
Shadow Lakes II
24727 W. Amenity Ctr. Dr.
Wilmington, IL 60481

NOVEMBER 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning balance	\$ 2,872.33
Income	\$ 132.00
Expenses	\$ 534.60
Club Ending Balance	\$ 2,469.73
Stocking costs	Fall charges not in yet*
Association balance	\$ 10,329.81
TTL Club/Assoc. balance	\$ 12,799.54
* Fall stocking bills not submitted by 11/17	



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 19th, our 1st meeting of 2014. 9 AM at the Amenity Center, hot coffee and rolls, join us, warm up, get the new year off to a great start. Mike Green will have pricing and fish availability results for our consideration in 2014.
- February 1st, Ice Fishing Tournament and Chili Mixer. Sign-up in advance or notify us if you want to participate, and are not out here to sign-up early. No ice or bad ice, we will still hold the Chili Mixer at 12:30PM. Bring a container of chili, all condiments will be provided. A really great day to break-up the "Cabin Fever" season.
- February 16th, monthly meeting, 9 AM at the Amenity Center, hot coffee and rolls.

FISHING ROUNDTABLE

Prior to the “BIG FREEZE” we were seeing some early catches of nice Trout and Walleye, remember Walleyes are “Catch & Release” only. Since the freeze, not too many folks ventured out on the ice. We did have some reports of more Trout being caught through the hard water. Reports of ice thickness in recent weeks ranged from 8 to 16 inches in the main lakes. BUT, make sure to check for yourself and stay away from springs and open areas, especially after the big thaw that started a week ago. There are a few pictures of recent Trout catches in this newsletter. Hopefully, the remaining weeks will find fishing on the rise and that our Ice Fishing Derby is a big success. If not, we still plan to have a great Chili Mixer. So join us on February 1st.

NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING MINUTES

We held an abbreviated business meeting to get to the Brunch portion of the meeting.

- Reports of fall walleyes being caught, mostly larger fish, with several over 5 lbs. No reports of the 2 to 4 pound fish we need to develop for expanded Walleye fishing.
- POAC/Board updates: Progress is being made on securing permanent access to Hole-in-the-Wall Rd. More information will be available sometime early next year.
 - DNR report from Mike Green. All end of year fish have been ordered and will be delivered in the coming weeks. Trout were very large this year, with several 4 to 5 lbs.
- We discussed our 20th Anniversary celebration for 2014. See a later article in this newsletter to read the plans for this year. Feel free to call me and make other suggestions on ways to celebrate this event.
- A “BIG” thank you to all who helped with this year’s fishing stocking.
- We reviewed our 2014 calendar of Club events and our stocking plans for next year.
- A new Club member, John SanFilippo, has developed a Picture Digest for the Fishing Club using an application called “SHUTTERFLY”. This digest would allow residents and Club members to display fishing pictures for sharing with all members who are on the digest. More details and specifics on how this works will follow next month.

2013 CLUB SEASON CLOSSES OUT ON SOME HIGH NOTES

- As we said good-bye to 2013, the Club had two of it’s best events this past fall. Our Cat/Carp/Oktoberfest had over 50 folks out for a fun evening of fishing, food and lot’s of laughs. For the second year, our Carp did not co-operate, but the Cats were biting.
- On November 17th 60 folks came out for our Annual Thank You Brunch. It was held in the new “Community Center”, a beautiful room for such events. Many, many thanks to all of the great cooks who brought food, to the SLKS maintenance staff for their help and to my wife Betty for working so hard to make this a fun event for all. A big raffle was held and we thanked the current Board Chairman, Mike Tomasek, who joined us, for adding another \$1,000 to the Stocking Program in 2014. We broke up a little early to watch the Bears game, only to have a disaster strike our area. An F-2 tornado hit both Coal City and Diamond and devastated many local businesses and homes. Thank God, there was no loss of life and Shadow Lakes was spared. Our Association and many of our residents helped with the clean-up and organizing following this tragedy. A big “THANK YOU” to all who chipped in in any way.

Fishing Club celebrates our 20th anniversary in 2014!

On June 14th 1994, the Sportsman Fishing Club held it's first meeting and set out an agenda to help Shadow Lakes manage it's fishery and waters. Since that date a dedicated group of residents have worked very hard to help stabilize our fish populations and the quality of our lakes. They have donated countless hours of volunteer time to numerous projects in and around our waters. These efforts will continue with our active Club members in 2014 and some special events.

- We additionally plan to hold a Pig-roast Pot-luck luncheon on June 14th, with a large 50/50 Cash Raffle.
- Funds from our Raffle will be added to our stocking efforts and we also hope to purchase a large handicapped accessible picnic table to the Association as a token of the Club's support and involvement with the Community for 20 years. This table will hopefully be installed at a proposed handicapped fishing pier being discussed by the Association and highlight the Club's contributions.
- A community wide Kid's Seminar will be held on June 26th. This will be conducted by Bob Sadowski, a seasoned Chicago Park District instructor.

SOME OF THE MOST BASIC ICE FISHING TECHNIQUES

When learning to ice fish, it's important to remember that fish do not exert as much energy or move as fast as they do in the warm months. Ice fishing techniques should all be conducted slowly as the fish will not move much to bite. In addition to little movement, fish do not bite as aggressively as in the summer, so a big part of technique is reading the bite.

Jigging

If you are using an ice fishing rod and hook-and-line while ice fishing, then a good technique to try is jigging. You can use lures or live bait while jigging. Drop your line and let your jig hook sink to the bottom. Then slowly (very slowly) raise your bait up about a foot off the bottom. You can jig up and down, side to side or up and down and sideways. If you are moving your bait too much or too fast, the fish may think it is not worth the effort to go after it. Jigging works best for smaller fish like panfish.

Tight-lining

Another technique to try is called tight-lining. Tight-lining is a technique where you do not move the line and lure once you drop it in the water, instead you watch the line for movement. When the line becomes "tight" you know you have something on it. When tight-lining, remember to use a lure heavy enough to allow your line to drop straight down to your desired depth, but not heavy enough that the line will not move when a strike occurs. Many anglers use trial and error to find the correct lure. Some folks also add a spring bobber to their line to help with strike indication. A spring bobber is a piece of metal or wire that extends off the rod tip. Any movement in the line will cause the spring bobber to move alerting the angler of a bite.

(Techniques continued)

Tip Ups

A tip-up is a technique as well as a piece of ice fishing equipment, more information can be found in the ice fishing gear section. A tip-up is a device set on the ice above your hole that dangles bait beneath it with a flag as a strike indicator. When a fish takes the bait, the reel turns and releases the line and flag at the same time. The flag "tips up" alerting the angler something is on the line. Tip-ups work best with heavier braided line and a larger lure, and typically attract larger game fish. For panfish you can add a few feet of lighter line and your jig or baited hook at the end of the braided line.

Once your tip-up is set up on the surface above your hole, drop your line in the water until it hits the bottom (usually stirring up the water), then raise it slightly above the floor. The line can either remain still or if you are not in a shelter, the wind can provide a natural jigging movement. Many anglers try all these above techniques simultaneously to see which works best for that particular body of water, the species available and the conditions of the season. Ice fishing is fun when you have a group fishing and competing with each other.



AN ICE FISHING CHECKLIST

Layered Clothing

- ☐ T-shirt, turtleneck, or long underwear shirt
- ☐ sweater or sweatshirt
- ☐ coat with waterproof/windproof shell
- ☐ coveralls
- ☐ lightweight socks
- ☐ wool socks
- ☐ gloves or mittens
- ☐ spare pair of gloves or mittens
- ☐ hat
- ☐ spare hat
- ☐ waterproof gloves
- ☐ insulated/waterproof boots
- ☐ mat to stand on
- ☐ change of clothes - just in case

Safety Gear

- ☐ basic first aid kit
- ☐ high energy snacks
- ☐ hot, nonalcoholic liquids
- ☐ 50 foot (or more) rope
- ☐ personal floatation device (PFD)
- ☐ small board with nail or spike
- ☐ throw jug

Fishing Equipment

- ☐ ice auger or spud bar
- ☐ five gallon bucket
- ☐ sled
- ☐ ice skimmer
- ☐ poles and/or tip ups
- ☐ monofilament line (# test varies with species of fish you're after)
- ☐ small bobbers
- ☐ hooks (size varies with species of fish you're after)
- ☐ leaders
- ☐ small, non lead sinkers
- ☐ lures
- ☐ bait (grubs, minnows, earth)
- ☐ insulated minnow bucket and dipper
- ☐ lantern or flashlight
- ☐ needle-nosed pliers
- ☐ knife or scissors
- ☐ tape measure or length limit ruler
- ☐ ice shelter (optional)

Sportsman Fishing Club
24727 W. Amenity Center Drive
Wilmington IL 60481

Sportsman Fishing Club

Membership Application for 2014

\$35.00 for Individual or Family

Please provide the following information for Club records and newsletter mailing purposes:

Date: _____ Renew: _____ New Member : _____

Name(s): _____ Village Lot #: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Shadow Lakes Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail address (only needed if you wish to receive the Club Newsletter by e-mail)

Email address: _____

I will view Newsletter on Web Site _____ Please mail newsletter _____

Membership dues cover the calendar year 2013

- Bring this form to the next meeting and make check payable to: The Sportsman Fishing Club
- Mail to: Sportsman Fishing Club, 24727 W. Amenity Center Drive, Wilmington, IL 60481
- Drop off the application and payment in the Association office.