

Arlington Anglers

Fishing the Big Lake

Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

Some of us remember early morning summer fishing outings to the Lake Michigan shoreline to fish for perch with our Dads. We would use trolleys and soft shell crabs. Everyone would be catching perch and you could hear yells of "JUMBO" down the line as someone would haul in a big perch.

Well, a lot of things have changed. The perch levels have dropped even though there is minimal commercial fishing of them now. Invasive species have crept into the Great Lakes. Alewives no longer have to be bull-dozed from the beaches due mainly to the introduction of the salmon. The water is certainly a lot clearer.

At the Arlington Anglers June meeting, Captain Ralph Steiger described some great fishing opportunities and a much different type of Lake Michigan fishing using smaller boats and the latest in fishing rods, reel, lures, and techniques.

PERCH

On his charters, Ralph uses somewhat of a crappie rig. He uses bare hooks or sometimes replaces them with small flies (orange, chartreuse, or glow). Depending on the time of year, he will use fathead minnows (they look like small gobies) or soft-shell crabs (cut into 6 pieces). Sometimes he'll be bouncing the bottom, but often a slow troll with an in-line spinner can be very effective. The best news is that the IL DNR is allowing perch fishing in the month of July!

SMALL MOUTH

Ralph rigs his rods with 8# Trilene XL tied to a fluorocarbon leader. He generally does not fish with live bait as artificials allow him to make long casts and cover a lot of water. He'll often use mushroom jigs tipped with goby like plastics (using slow retrieves, pop pop, wait, pop pop) and in warmer water tries cranbaits or chartreuse

spinner baits. You need to try to cast parallel to the rocky shoreline, looking for submerged boulders, nooks, crannies, or any unusual structure.

Ralph Steiger is a well known, multi-species Lake Michigan fishing guide. Depending on the time of year and species (small mouth, perch, salmon), he fishes from the Navy Pier area to around to Indiana. You might see him running from spot to spot in his 21 foot, 300 hp, Skeeter Walleye boat. More information can be found at: www.captainsteiger.com/

A fishing club will introduce you to a large number of new friends that share the same interests and hobbies. The club will provide outings and trips that you never would have even thought about. It will put together people that are looking for fishing buddies when the "bite is on". You'll find yourself fishing more frequently and in a lot of new places.

July is a great time to seek out and try out a new club as fishing gets into full swing. You have a no-risk opportunity to see first-hand what a club can do for you. Our July speakers will be Jay Garstecki and Gary Dew on Musky and Bass Techniques. Jay has been instrumental in the Take a Vet Fishing Program (www.TakeaVetfishing.com). Gary is the force behind Angler911, a fundraising organization dedicated to help easing the burdens of families that have been stricken with facing the challenges of cancer (www.Angler911.com). Both are knowledgeable fishing professionals.



Dates to Remember:

July 15 – Meeting

Jay Garstecki and Gary Dew on Musky and Bass Techniques

Jul 18-20 - Outing Lake Sara

Fishing/Camping/Cottages

July 23 – Special Needs Kids Derby

Vernon Hills, Big Bear Lake

Aug 2 – Outing Fox Chain

Bauske Marina

Aug 16 – Outing Lake Beulah

Night Fishing

Aug 19 – Club Picnic

Harper College Reservoir

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities, and outings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 9:00 PM.

We meet at Cabela's which is located at 5225 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL just off I-90 at Illinois Rt 59. Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 312-560-9876 or visit our website at <http://arlingtonanglers.com> .