

Tight Lines Newsletter

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www.arlingtonanglers.com

President's Note:

Wow! A whopping 79 members and guests attended our February meeting. That's has to be a record! Apparently we are doing something right to get that kind of support.

The weather is heating up and that means open water fishing is back. Lots of members are already having early season success. Spring is a great time to get out as fish start to move shallower and can be more predictable and easier to find. I took advantage and hooked up the nice 30" steelhead shown at right.



New member profiles continue this month (pgs 9/10). Introduce yourself and welcome them when you see them.

There is lots of great content in this month's issue. We highlight our March speaker and raffle prizes, review tips from our February speaker, and report on results from the Rolling Meadows Flea Market.

We are again expecting a huge turnout this month. Be sure to get to the meeting early to help us process the crowd and to find a good seat. Plus you won't want to miss our speaker or a chance to win the raffle grand prize.

We also have feature articles on the H2H Walleye League and How Best to Meet Other Club Members.

See you all at the meeting on the 19th!

Chris Popp - President

This Month's Speaker

Conditions change quickly in Spring with fish transitioning from pre-spawn to spawn to post spawn in relatively rapid time increments, at least when comparing to longer and more consistent Summer patterns. Knowing where you are at in the cycle is a big deal.

While some may not relate when talking about specific lakes, the strategies do translate to similar bodies of water. Therefore, while our March speaker Carl Kaufmann will be reviewing Delavan and Geneva you can be sure the tactics and plans he shares will be useful on many of the places you fish.

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Mar 19
Apr 16
May 21

Outings

Wisc River/Dells
Mar 24 - 27

LaSalle Lake
Early April tbd

Mississippi Barge
Date changed to
May 22-24

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Carl Kaufmann

Techniques for Springtime Delavan/Geneva Transition



Carl Kaufmann was the President of Walleyes Unlimited for two terms, and Club Champion in 1994 with multiple Top 10 finishes. A former fishing guide since 1998, Carl has caught 200+ walleyes over 8lbs, with the largest weighing 14. Tonight, he will talk about springtime transitions at Delavan & Geneva. Help me in welcoming Carl to the club!

Club Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan.- Nov.

Poplar Creek Banquets
2354 W. Higgins Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Guests Welcome
Fee \$3 members | \$8 non
6:30 PM Start

March Raffle Grand Prize – St. Croix Rod



Our March raffle Grand Prize will be a St. Croix Eyecon Walleye Series spinning rod valued at over \$170!

The model up for grabs this month is a 7'6" Medium/Light with Extra Fast action. This highly sensitive rod is perfect for finesse techniques, tossing light lures, C-rigs, Lindy rigs, small jigging spoons and more. The added "feel" will make a

huge difference in bite detection and surely make you a more successful fisherman.

Five awesome consolation prizes worth another \$235 (for over \$400 in total) will also be included to give you more chances to win big!

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10.

Attend the March meeting for your chance to win a St. Croix rod!

Steve's Fishing Report

By: Steve Jung



And away we go. Spring forward is here and I think most of you can agree it is nice to see the sunlight last later in the day. It signals the beginning of the fishing season for most and the mild winter has provided a nice teaser to get out and fish some open water. Air temps are still erratic but open water fishing for some has already been very good considering we are in the middle of March.

AREA PONDS & LAKES:

Panfish are going on soft plastics and minnows under a float. Bass caught on a variety of baits like crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics. Warmer temps will only make it better.

FOX CHAIN OF LAKES:

Try for crappie and bluegill in channels with small plastics under a float in 2-3' of water. Water levels are coming up along with water temps, now in the low to mid 40's.

BRAIDWOOD:

A variety of baits are working for bass and bluegills along the riprap. Watch the wind if you are in a boat.

LASALLE: Opens 3/15

HEIDECKE: Opens 4/1

DES PLAINES RIVER:

Northern Pike are starting to get active chasing spinners.

KANKAKEE RIVER:

Smallmouth can be found along current seams with crankbaits, jerkbaits, and jig/plastics.

FOX RIVER:

Smallmouth starting below riffles on crankbaits and blade baits, along with the ned rig. Some catches of crappie and perch in eddies with minnows or gulp under floats.

NAVY PIER:

The north side is open from 05:00-10:00 for \$9 American. Remember you have to be out of the garage by 10:00. Some perch remain along with random catches of trout.

LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE:

Power liners are not yet seeing many coho. Should be soon.

Lastly, and most importantly, Illinois fishing licenses expire 3/31.

Last Month's Speaker Tips By Brian O'Connor



Professional tourney angler and guide Isaac Lakich uses Google Maps on the next new lake he's going to fish, which gives him clues on what he may encounter. An example would be the water clarity he could expect from one end of the lake that has a river or creek flowing into it. He feels that doing some pre-fishing research online can be very beneficial to one's next outing on a new body of water.

Most walleye spawn in 4'-8' of water on hard bottom surfaces when water temps are 42-48. In rivers, Isaac starts near dams fishing current seams and sand dunes. Riprap and rock are better in March/April near spawn time as that's what the fish will relate to. But it's a tougher bite as the fish are focused solely on the spawn.



Isaac stressed "Go Slow" in the Spring! If you think you're fishing slow, fish slower. He won multiple walleye events letting his bait sit on the bottom twice as long as others. The colder the water, the lighter the jig he uses for a slower fall. Stealth is a big deal to him. Remaining quiet and limiting trolling motor usage will help in the long run.

Isaac's Top 3 lure colors for walleye (any where, year-round) are **gold, purple and white**. He can accomplish everything he needs to with those three colors, no matter the season. His favorite bait for suspended summer walleye is a death jig by Walleye Nation."

This was a very informative tutorial, with some members saying Isaac gave one of the best presentations they have heard.

February Raffle Winners

In addition to the door prize raffle all attendees have a 1 in 4 chance to win we also hold an optional raffle for bigger prizes.

Our February grand prize was a St Croix Avid 6'6" Med/Light Spinning Rod valued at \$225!

The excited winner was new member and first time attendee Peter Laugalis, who is pictured at left with President Popp.

Because of our huge turnout we added a bonus for a total of 6 consolation prizes. Winners, pictured at right in order were,

Jim Martinez (Rapala tool kit), new member Mark Petras (3 Flicker Shads), first timer Charlie O'Connor (2 rechargeable hand warmers), double winner Mike Niederkorn (Daiwa Revros spinning reel and a walleye jigging kit), and Tom Gillespie (Folding pocket knife).

We also gave out 25 door prizes!



Rolling Meadows Flea Market Report By: Chris Popp



The Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market was held on Saturday March 2 at the Rolling Meadows High School. As we have for many years, the Arlington Anglers had a table.

This flea market, or swap meet as it is sometimes called, is possibly the largest in northern Illinois. It has a diverse array of new and used tackle, rods & reels, marine equipment, art, and other fishing related items.

Prior to the last 4 or 5 years we used the event to recruit new members. However, with recent donations from relocating and deceased former members, and now also from existing club

members, we have been selling used tackle to supplement our general fund.

The show was well attended with visitors from as far away as Wisconsin and Indiana. Our table was always busy, likely because all our tackle was only \$1 or \$2, and with rods/reels and other items priced to sell.

Thanks go to club Secretary Dave Powell (green shirt below) for spearheading this initiative. Thanks also to Pat Trunda and Mike Bierman for working the sales table and sharing club benefits to interested visitors, and also to present members who donated items for the sale.



Head2Head Walleye League Viewing Details



Last month we talked about the inaugural Walleye League that member Dave McCoy and partner Derek Boeger will be competing in this Spring and Summer. Since the start is fast approaching its time to share how to watch and cheer on our fellow club member.

The first step is to sign up for a free account on phyx.tv. In addition to a wide variety of outdoor content this site is the platform where all the league action will be streamed live and then archived for later viewing. Login requires only an email address and password. On each day of the event you can watch all the teams, your favorite team, or the studio commentary. You'll also be able to communicate directly with the anglers. More info can be found on the site.

Additional information and comments on the series can also be found on the Head2Head Fishing Facebook page, where there will be a link to view live. Replays will only be available on phyx.tv if you want to watch later. So get an account to view the day's action when it may more convenient for you.

Also available on the phyx.tv site are "Meet The Anglers" segments with each of the teams. Check out the interview with Dave and Derek. It's a breezy and fun 45 minutes and gives some background on how they got together for the league.

Finally, follow Dave and Derek on their team Facebook page. Search "Fabulous Illinois Boys" to read their comments and to share your support. Good luck Dave & Derek!

94 Members Eligible for MO Sub Drawing



As an incentive to get members to renew their memberships on a timely basis, and for new members to join, the Arlington Anglers will for the second year be holding a raffle to win one of 25 annual subscriptions to the Midwest Outdoors Magazine, the definitive news and education source for all things outdoors in our area.

All members that were paid up by the end of the February meeting are eligible to win a one year subscription.

An amazing 94 members, including 18 new ones, were current as of the end of the February meeting. That's a whopping 20 more than last year! Thanks so much too all past members for getting your renewal in so quickly, and to all the new members for giving us a try this year. It's a big help!

Names will soon be pulled from those eligible. Winners will be contacted to see if they want to receive it. If not, alternates will be selected until we get to 25.

How To Meet People In Your Club - Part 1

By: Chris Popp

(Ed. This is a 2 part series. Part 1 will identify the issues. Part 2, next month, will provide specific tips for engaging other members)

When I meet other anglers at fishing shows or swap meets I often ask if they've considered joining a fishing club. While some haven't, many share that they've tried various clubs in the past and found them to be clique-ish and/or just not friendly. Or, at the very least, not welcoming. So they felt like they didn't fit in. I find that unfortunate as ours is not any of those things. While it may be true of some clubs I sometimes wonder if there is a misinterpretation of what's really going on.

And it's not just new or prospective members. When I ask members who have been in our club for a year whether they are meeting people, some admit they struggle with it.

To better understand the dynamics I consulted with my friend Jackie Noto. She is a Doctoral Candidate in Behavior Analysis at Florida Tech and has Masters Degrees in Applied Behavior Analysis and Organizational Behavior Management. She is also co-host of the BehaviorSelf Podcast. Who better to share insights into the issue?

Jackie was able to provide some general suggestions for easing into clubs to which I added some specifics to our situation.

When I asked Jackie why some have difficulties engaging she suggested that, because of our typical age demographic, many were top performers in their field, either as leaders at some level or the go to person because of their years of experience. They are used to people coming to them either introducing themselves or asking them for advice.

As recent members in the club they are now on the bottom rung, unfamiliar with how things work and likely with no one to lean on to help navigate the new environment. This may make them feel uncomfortable and hesitant to engage. And some are just not naturally outgoing and may need help to overcome the obstacles.

When I asked Jackie about the concept of cliques as barriers, she advised that seemingly closed groups are not typically formed out of exclusion, or to keep people out. They are formed out of inclusion, bringing in people most like each other with very similar interests. If the new member fits the characteristics of the group, the barrier to inclusion is less difficult. It just takes time. Now, if the small group has no interest in meeting others, that could be a real clique.

However, this would generally seem unlikely for the majority of our existing club members. Survey after survey I've made with new members on why they joined the club resulted in the same response: To meet more people with their similar interests and to share knowledge and experience. Virtually everyone in the club joined for the same reason and purpose. We almost all have the same goal of expanding our network of fishing friends!

This fact should swiftly put new members at ease. While in a multi-species fishing club many individuals have their specific interests, both in the types of fish they pursue and the way they pursue them. But most also chase a variety of other species or would like to try. Therefore it should be somewhat easier to find several groups of people with an individual's similar interests in a club our size.

Ok, so how to go about doing that when you aren't sure where to start or aren't super outgoing? Jackie has a few suggestions that I can add to in more detail. It starts with a plan.

(Specific suggestions and action plans will follow in Part 2, next month)

Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Bob Steffan for his 16" crappie. Crappies have been king so far this year. His monster was on top of the 15.5"er he caught the day before!

Bob was fishing the Fox River near Elgin from shore. He was using a small jig tipped with a Gulp minnow under a float. He had tossed the rig in an eddy near some large structure when his float slowly went down.

Honorable Mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Chris Popp for his 30 inch steelhead. Chris was on a St. Joe River charter with some other members. They were anchoring on current seams and fishing with a spread of Flatfish lures trailing behind the boat.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to 16 year old Robbie Henderson for this chunky largemouth bass.

Robbie was at a local pond fishing with dad, member Jeff "Hendo" Henderson, where he caught several similar specimens tossing a suspending jerk bait. Hendo got a few, too, on crawlers. Great father & son outing!

Please share your passion for fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do!

Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to Jeff Ayeski for his 9+ inch bluegill. Jeff was fishing Bangs Lake docks targeting panfish with minnows and waxies when this exceptional 'gill accepted his offering.

Getting to Know New 2024 Club Members



Rudy Vabalaitis currently lives in Lombard and was previously in Downers Grove. He's unfortunately been a widower for 25 years but has a son and 2 wonderful grandkids.

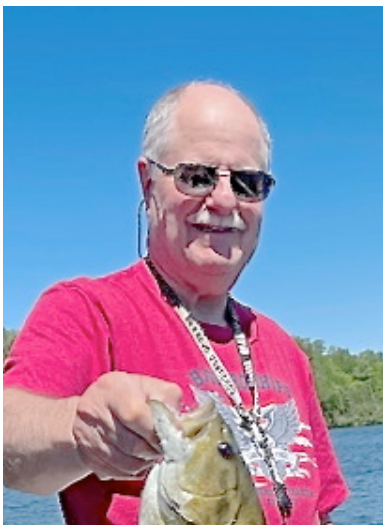
Rudy has been retired for 6 years from design engineering.

He has a Lund Angler with 50 HP motor. He trailers the boat

to various Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan waters.

Rudy's favorite fishing is for walleye, but he also enjoys pike, crappie and salmon fishing. He says he is going to try his luck at musky fishing this year.

Rudy joined the club to make new fishing buddies and gather more local water knowledge.



Jack Greenstein and his wife Barbara hail from the Grand Dominion Senior Community in Mundelein. They also have a place in Dowagiac, Mich. They, their 2 kids and 4 grandkids are all fishing fanatics. Jack is retired from Siemens after 40 year of Engineering and Global Supply Chain Mgmt .

Jack has a Alumacraft 165 Competitor with 90 HP that he trailers to local waters, and a canoe, kayaks & a Pontoon.

Jack fishes mostly around Lake County & SE Wisc, but goes farther north and, of course, to his Michigan lake house.

Jack isn't particular on what he fishes for. He just enjoys being on the water with fishing buddies. But a nice SMB is always a bonus!

Jack hopes to meet some new fellow anglers, and to learn and share some new fishing experiences.



Don Snyder lives in the Del Webb community in Huntley where he recently moved to with his wife after retiring from manufacturing operations management. They have 2 grown sons. Both love to fish.

Don has a 2019 G3 Sportsman 1810 with a Yamaha 115SHO which is trailered and always on the go.

Don primarily fishes for largemouth, smallmouth and pike where available. In the past he chased his favorites during tourneys in FL, AL, TX, MO, KY, IN, MI, WI, IL, and MN. Now he just likes to fun fish for the same species. Less stress!

Don joined the club to meet new anglers and to build some new friendships.

More New 2024 Member Profiles



Mark Petras and wife Gail live in Barrington. They also have a home in Grand Haven, MI. They have 3 kids, all in their 30s. Mark is retired from 45 years in the rubber & plastics industry. His daughter now runs his old distribution company.

Mark shares ownership of a 16.5' Lund with another new member, Rudy Vabalaitis.

Mark likes to fish for walleye, pike, salmon, trout, bass, and panfish, probably in that order. He travels to many Illinois and Wisconsin area lakes and rivers, and is looking to spend some time on Green Bay.

Mark joined to glean info from our speakers and network with other anglers.



Peter Laugalis lives in Lake Zurich with his wife Lisa. They have 2 adult children. One lives Australia! Peter is now retired but was a vinyl record dealer in his past life.

Peter has a 1995 16' Sea Nymph with a 50 HP motor. He trailers it to various northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin lakes. He also owns five kayaks.

Peter enjoys all types of fishing whether from shore, his kayak, or from a boat. He particularly likes to target panfish and walleye, but would like to try for a musky this year.

Peter joined to meet people with similar interests, learn what he can from other anglers, and maybe make a few new fishing buddies.



Jack Knies lives in Evergreen Park with Theresa, his bride of 50 years. They have 2 adult boys and 2 grandkids. He is past president of the Fish Tales FC and a member of several other outdoors clubs. He is retired but enjoys working as a Special Olympics coach and rec leader.

Jack has a 19' Alumacraft Trophy with a Yamaha 150 he trailers all over the Midwest.

Jack's on the water handle is "Gumby". He says the name derives from him being such a "flexible" fisherman.

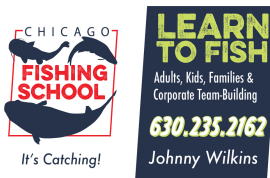
His favorite species are big toothy guys. Nothing like a strike from a pike or musky! But he chases everything.

Jack joined our club because he heard so much about it and had to give it a try.

Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us



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M&G Propeller

Member Discount Partners

Being a member of the Arlington Anglers comes with many benefits. Following is a list of sponsors that offer discounts to our members with their membership card. Be aware, some manufacturers do not allow discounts by their dealers. Also, discount percentages could change at any time, at our partner's discretion.



GRANDT RODS

GRANDT INDUSTRIES INC.,
PO box 772 Arlington Heights, IL. 60006
847-577-0848 Jim Grandt
Website: grandtrods.com
Discount: 20% off internet rod prices, plus free hat (while in stock). Free pickup in Arlington Heights.
Also, any Pflueger reel in stock can be purchased to create a combo at \$15 off internet retail price.
(Must show membership card at pickup).



ANGLERS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

1272 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine IL 60074
847-991-3200
Website: FishinGurus.com
Discount: 10% on tackle & bait



LEE'S BAIT AND TACKLE (2 Locations)

1010 East Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-593-6424
1400 W. Army Trail Rd., Carol Stream, IL. 60188
630-830-5337
Website: Leesglobaltackle.com
Discount: 10% min. on tackle, depending on mfg.



Fish Tech

5802 Dempster St. Morton Grove IL 60053
847-966-5900
Website: fishtechmg.com
Discount: 10% off tackle and bait



LiveBaitFishingTackle.com

Online or 630-235-2162
Discount: 15% off floats, line, tackle, rods, reels & bait.
Use code "arlington" at checkout. Also, 15% off lessons, classes, and guiding at Chicagofishingschool.com.



Battery Service Corporation

410 S. Evergreen St. Bensenville, IL. 60106
630-595-4244
Website: batteryservice.com
Discount: Dealer prices with card



Catch Co.

www.catchco.com
Discount Site: www.shopkarls.com
Discount: \$10 off a minimum \$25 purchase
Use Promo code ARLANG10

M&G Propeller

M&G Propeller

217 Sola Dr. Gilberts, IL 60136
847-551-9281
Discount: 10% off prop repair services

Renew Your Membership or Join The Club

Yearly dues are the financial life-blood of our club. They pay our speakers, insurance, shows, pizza party, and other operating expenses. Presently, our annual family membership is \$40.00. Please renew or join today!

We've now added Zelle quick pay to our options: (arlangfc19@gmail.com). So, 3 ways to pay: (1)Zelle, (2)at a meeting, or (3)check by mail. New members - use the form below or visit our "Join Our Club" web page.

Bring checks made out to "Arlington Anglers" to a meeting or mail to:

Arlington Anglers
C/O Rich Sutton
719 W. Catino St.
Arlington Hts., IL 60005



We're on the Web!
www.arlingtonanglers.com
or
QR Code (to the right)
or
FACEBOOK at: Arlington Anglers



Renewing members need only provide Date and Name.

Fill out completely and mail with your check.

Today's Date: ___/___/___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Email Address: _____