

Tight Lines Newsletter

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President's Note:

I recently returned from my annual trip to Michigan where I fish a bit for King Salmon on the Betsie River (see one on the Big Fish of the Month page). I've been going there virtually every year for over 35 years where I reconnect with friends from Detroit, Toledo, and Valparaiso Indiana, guys I've met there along the way.

While I like fishing new waters when I can, I'm also a traditionalist. I enjoy returning to some places, with the same people, sharing old experiences we've made together while making new ones each year. It's great having lifelong friends like that. The sad part is the group is getting smaller as some fall out, or worse, pass on. But that seems to be the cycle. I'll try to make the most of it while I, and those remaining, still can.

While it may seem that the year is winding down, don't believe it. There is plenty more left on the schedule. November is a huge month for us

This Month's Speaker

While most fisherman have their favorite locations to fish, most are always on the lookout for new opportunities. For various reasons it seems many look to our northern neighbor for hidden gems. But we have some stellar bodies of water just to our south.

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with officer elections, the pizza party, member speakers, and Toys for Tots donation collection. And December sees our Holiday Party and Awards Banquet.

But don't forget about our October meeting, which is next. Along with a great speaker and awesome raffle prizes, tickets go on sale for the Holiday Party. See page 5 for details and be sure to buy yours early.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Tuesday October 20.

Chris Popp - President

IDNR Fisheries Biologist Seth Love is keenly knowledgeable about several lakes within 60-90 minutes of the majority of our membership. Why more don't take advantage is a mystery. After his presentation on 2 premium destinations, maybe more will give them a shot.

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Oct 20

Nov 17

Outings

Navy Pier Perch

Dec - tbd

**Pizza Party
& Bd. Elections
November Meeting**

**Holiday Party
Sunday Dec 13**

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Seth Love

Sport Fish on Heidecke & Braidwood Lakes



Seth Love is a District Fisheries Biologist with the Illinois DNR, covering the I&M Canal, Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, South-Cook and Will Counties. Before this current role, Seth got his start with IDNR on the Asian Carp Program, and tonight he's excited to share his knowledge on 2 popular fishing lakes in his region, Heidecke and Braidwood. Please help me welcome Seth 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**

October Raffle Grand Prize – Tatula Spinning Reel



The October meeting raffle Grand Prize will be a Diawa Tatula MQ LT3000-CXH spinning reel valued at over \$240!

Premium features like the Airdrive Design that reduces rotational inertia, Tough DigiGear for smooth retrieves and long term durability, a ball bearing

supported drag system, and a 6.2:1 ratio to pick up line faster, makes this likely the best reel you'll ever own.

There will also be 5 consolation prizes, plus a bonus, valued at another \$275!

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

Be sure to attend the October meeting for your chance to win big!

Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung



The nights are getting cooler and the days are getting shorter, but the fishing is excellent. The water will continue to cool, and your location and tactics need to change accordingly. As in the spring, the north shore will be warmer due to the angle of the sun. The afternoon bite window should be your focus. Sleep in.

AREA PONDS/LAKES: Panfish are excellent. Try casting plastics or live bait under a cork.

Largemouth are also very good on spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, and plastics. Ned rigs, jig and plastic such as a jig and a chigger craw or a Neko rig are also good options.

FOX/DESPLAINES RIVERS:

Water is high, but coming down. Backwaters are good with crankbaits like a Manns -1, a KVD 1.5, and Rapalas such as a #7, #9, or #11. The Fox Chain will begin draw-down on 11/1.

FOX CHAIN:

Striper, bluegills, and crappies on live bait or plastics casted or under a float. Use your electronics to find fish. Be ready to hunt. Walleye are beginning to move shallow. As the water cools, the shad will move shallow and begin to die. The bite will only get better.

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT:

Coho, Kings, and Lakers are all in. Try using spoons, such as KO wobblers and Little Cleos. Pay attention to the wind direction.

LAKE GENEVA/DELAVER:

Smallmouth, largemouth, and walleye are all good on live bait. Bluegills are still excellent in deep water on a drop shot and small piece of crawler. The water is still warm and the muskie bite is slow.

Illinois Catchable Trout starts Saturday October 17.

Last Month's Speaker Tips By: Steve Jung



The Fox Chain is Matt Madlener's primary waters in the Fall. 3" minnows are a good start as the fish will move in shallow from the front of docks all the way to shore as the water cools. Live bait is the key. Bluegill may spawn at 48-50 degrees around the full moon. Good electronics are a must to find beds as the water is often not clear to site fish. Lake temps can drop or rise up to 10 degrees a week dependent on air temps.



The change in water temperature will determine the fish movement. As water cools, a slower presentation is a key.

A subtle or reaction strike varies as does location. You have to work the docks or structure at this time of the year. Bigger fish, especially crappies, can be outside of the school in front of the docks.

An excellent shad population changed the ecosystem. Finding bait balls can help find suspended basin fish, before they move shallow. As boats leave, water clears and shad will die off. Smaller fish move shallow first. Try the first break for

White bass will explode on minnows. 55-70 degrees is a good space to target panfish, but 65 degrees is a golden temp. 55-45 is the end of fall. You do not have to start until 8 or 9 a.m.

Plastics work but let the fish tell you what size to use. Gulp fry, helgies, leeches or small gulp minnows and Bobby Garland plastics are a good choice. 1/32-1/64 oz jigs with short shanks are a good choice. Using a Thill slip float with a bobber stopper and a 1-foot snell is a good start. You can adjust the bobber stopper as needed. Throw into and under the docks. If needed be, add a small split shot to help with casting distance. Knot position is key to have bait hang parallel for a natural look. The shaded side of the dock will usually out produce the sunny side.

Walleye are shad driven. Reaction baits are an excellent choice. Focus on pinch points and watch for birds diving on bait fish.

September Raffle Winners



Our September raffle grand prize was a St Croix Blackbass and Abu Garcia MAXZ spinning combo worth \$200+! The happy winner was Tom Zubik, pictured at left, on the right, with President Chris Popp.

There were six consolation winners, pictured at right, in order: Mike Bierman (Bushnell binoculars), Dave Beyer (13 Fishing spin combo), Greg Pickle (Fleet Farm tackle bag), Kyle

Rapp (Jobsmart long nose pliers kit), double winner Tom Zubik (Mystery Tackle box and grand prize), and guest Wyatt Draz (Lantern and flash light combo). 20 other members won door prizes.



AAFC Holiday Party & Awards Banquet

The highlight of our year is coming up fast! On Sunday evening, December 13, we will host our annual Holiday Party and Awards Banquet at the beautiful Moretti's Unique Events in Hoffman Estates. This is a celebration of our successful year, an opportunity to spend some quality time with your fellow members and guests, and to recognize our Big Fish Contest winners.

Please strongly consider supporting the club and plan on attending this gala event, especially if you are one of the Big Fish Contest category leaders. It's always more fun when winners are present. There will be a fabulous all you can eat buffet with 3 main entrees, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and a Year in Review presentation during the cocktail hour. It's going to be a fun!

Advanced tickets are required. They will go on sale starting at the October meeting. The club will again be subsidizing as the ticket price does not cover the full cost per person.





ARLINGTON ANGLERS HOLIDAY PARTY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2026
COCKTAILS 5:30-6:30 PM (**CASH BAR**)
DINNER & AWARDS 6:30PM to 8:30PM
PRICE : \$50 PER PERSON (ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY)



Location:
Moretti's Unique Events
2525 W Higgins Rd.
Hoffman Estates
847-885-0400

Buffet Style menu includes:

- Fresh Garden Salad /Rolls
- Potatoes and Vegetables
- Beef, Chicken, & Fish Entrees
- Ice Cream and more Desserts
- Soft Drinks/Coffee

RETURN BOTTOM HALF WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
"ARLINGTON ANGLERS"
IF ELECTRONIC PAYMENT, SEE BELOW

By Mail:
Arlington Anglers
C/O Rich Sutton
719 W. Catino St.
Arlington Heights, IL
60005

In Person:
Bring to monthly meeting

By Zelle online via your bank:
arlangfc19@gmail.com
Follow up by email to same
with member name of record



***PLEASE PAY NO LATER THAN 12/4/26**

Check enclosed for (# people times x **\$50.00**) = Total \$ _____
Primary Member Name _____
Partner or Guest Name(s) _____

**NOTE: THIS YEAR'S TOY DONATIONS FOR OUR
"TOYS FOR TOTS" INITIATIVE WILL BE COLLECTED
AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING. NOT AT THIS EVENT.**

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Best Dam Float Outing Report By: Kristie Powell



From September 30 to October 2 another great time was had on the Best Dam Fishing Float in La Crosse Wisconsin! There were 18 members in attendance plus a guest and hopefully new member.

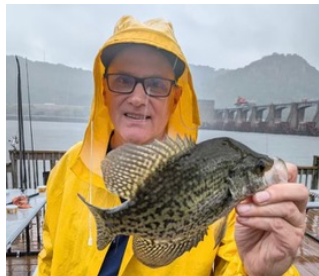
The weather was off and on with showers, fog and wind. Thursday the floating grass showed up but it wasn't as bad as it has been in the past. Showers weren't enough to keep us for going after the fish.

Varieties caught were drum, buffalo (3 huge ones!), sturgeon, some really nice northern, bluegills and a nice 20" walleye caught by Ken Kauth. Peter got his bluegill double, both hitting his 2 hook dropshot rig.

We went back to our Radisson Country Inn and Suites for the 2 nights we stayed in the area. The firepit was warm and the stories and adult beverages flowed.

A new restaurant, Manny's Cocina, was tried thanks to Rich Sutton. It was great! Of course, we had to do one dinner at our tried and true, North Country Steak Buffet.

All in all, I was really pleased with the turnout. I'm glad the Mississippi River cooperated with us and it wasn't too low. I believe everyone had a good time and will try to join us when we go again next spring.



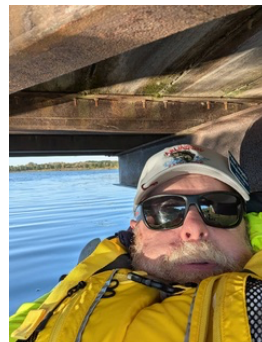
Kayak Outing Reports By: Peter Laugalis



On **September 25th** three members of Arlington Anglers Kayak Klub went fishing on **Camp Lake** in Salem lakes, Wisconsin. Unlike our previous effort to fish this lake (It was extremely windy and the put in and take out was difficult because our kayaks were being slammed into the shore.) this day instead was nice and calm. And the fish remained calm also 🙄. Only a few fish were landed which is expected when learning a new lake. All in all we like Camp Lake and look forward to going again.



On **October 5** five members of the Arlington Anglers Kayak Klub went fishing on **Sterling Lake** in Wadsworth, Illinois. It was a brisk morning but we dressed accordingly. Unfortunately, it got windy and made our efforts more challenging. On this lake we have had a lot more success in the past. At least a few members avoided getting skunked (I was not one of those members) 🙄. The lake is divided in two by a bridge. With the high water level it was a challenge to get under to the other side... but “gosh darn it!” we are Arlington Anglers after all. Four of us played kayak limbo using various techniques and succeeded to fish the north lake. Talk about Arlington Angler pride 😊. We all enjoyed ourselves and had some good food and conversation afterwards at Captain Porky’s.



New Sponsor & Discount Partner Highlight

Due to the outreach and efforts of member Dan Draz we are extremely excited to announce the addition of a new sponsor and discount partner to the club.

Pradco Fishing is one of the premier tackle companies spanning a wide range of brands. As they say on their website “Nowhere else will you find so many legends. Fred Arbogast, Cotton Cordell, James Heddon and more, they are fishing companies that stand the test of time. Add to this mix other popular lure brands like YUM, BOOYAH, Bandit, Bomber and more and you’ve got PRADCO Fishing – one of the largest fishing companies in the world”.

This is like getting 15 different discount partners in one shot. The range of companies and brands most of our members are familiar with and use their products is outstanding. We have been given a code for significant discounts when purchasing their products online. Details on how to use it will be posted in the Members Only page on our website.

In addition, Pradco has provided a generous donation, giving us a gift card code specifically to be used to purchase products for our door prizes and raffles. We can’t thank Pradco and their family of brands enough for their support!



November Club Events

There is a lot planned for the November meeting. Get 11/17 on your calendar and be sure to attend!



Officer Elections

The Terms for all officers expire at the end of each year. We take nominations for each position in October (you can nominate yourself) and hold elections at our November meeting. The newly elected officers' roles start the first of the year.

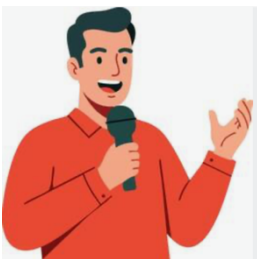
For next year, we are combining the newsletter and website maintenance roles into a single officer position, to be called Communications Chairman. This will temporarily reduce our Board from eleven members to ten members.



Pizza Party

At the November meeting we have our annual pizza party, at no cost to the attendees. It is the club's way of saying thank you for all the members support over the year.

We start serving at 6:30 and then begin business at 7:00. Last year we went through 25 large pies and over a dozen pitchers of soda. Alcohol is available but on the individual. Door fees are still applicable.



Member Speaker Night

Also at the November meeting we have our member speaker night. That is where 3 of our own present something they have passion or interest in.

This could be tips, techniques, hobbies, or experiences they've had. It's always interesting to see what they come up with. We presently have 2 of the speakers lined up. If you'd like to be the third contact Chris Popp asap.

Toy Donations

New this year, the November meeting will be the only night we will be collecting toys for our Toys For Tots philanthropy initiative. With our Holiday Party a week later than usual

this year we need to collect our donations early to meet their deadline. We have been asked to target ages 10 and above. Please plan on having your toy donation ready by the November meeting.



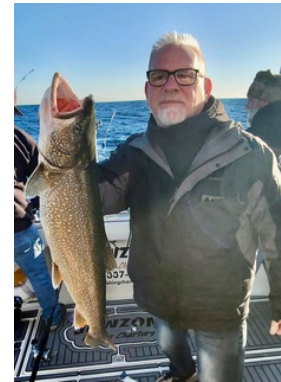
Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Chris Popp for his nice 36" Chinook "King" Salmon.

Chris was on his annual trip to the Betsie River, 30 miles Southwest of Traverse City Michigan. The Betsie is the premiere river for natural reproduction of the "Kings". Up to 50% of Chinook in Lake Michigan eventually comes out of this river, reducing the amount or stocking needed.

First Honorable Mention



First Honorable mention goes to Tom Zubik for this nice 34" Lake Trout. Tom was recently on a Lake Michigan charter with family members. They had a lot of luck trolling, catching a limit of "Lakers". This was the biggest of the bunch.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to junior member Dominic Hepp for this almost 3.5 pound smallmouth bass he caught during his first High School bass tournament held on Shabbona Lake.

Grandparents and members, Frank and Dar Mucci , have been supporting his growing love of the sport. It paid off!

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. There is a special joy in seeing their smiling face holding their "trophy".

Second Honorable Mention



Second Honorable Mention goes to Dave Beyer for this 33+" Buffalo. Dave got this one during the club's recent outing to the Best Dam Float in LaCrosse. It was a real tussle getting this one on the dock!

Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us



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www.grandtrods.com



www.stcroixrods.com



diawa.com



Swimbait.com

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1010 E. Higgins Rd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-593-6424

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