

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

Dedicated to the teachings of E.L. "Buck" Perry
The Father of Structure Fishing

January, 2013

Happy New Year! The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library, 7:15 PM. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

MEETING NOTES - Eighteen Spoonpluggers and their families enjoyed the Holiday Party at Giordano's Pizzeria-Westchester on Thursday, December 13. This event was held in lieu of the regular business meeting. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fellowship, great food, shared fishing stories, and time to just talk and catch up.

Club meetings are held at the Elk Grove Public Library on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.

FISHING REPORTS - With another year of Winter-Lite seemingly in progress, Spoonpluggers are finding opportunities to continue to take advantage of the soft water conditions! The Madison lakes continued to produce some quality muskies and pike up until the blizzard when Madison received 20"+ of snow. Good reports were received from Gino Testone, Jim Duplex, Jim Perillo and Frank Cipria. In addition, Bob Roels and Brett Christianson gave 2012 a fine send-off with reports of quality fish from Lake Geneva and Milwaukee Harbor right up until the last week of the year. Brett also spent a day plying Lake Geneva with John Bales. The smallmouth (and some perch) have been scattered on deeper structure hitting jump baits at times. Some browns were being caught in the Milwaukee Harbor where action had been spotty to good.

The general trend heading into the colder season is for fish to gradually settle into the basin of the lake, or the deepest water available, as in the case of a river or shallow lake with several deeper holes. This is their deep water sanctuary during the colder season. We can anticipate movements during this time of year to be short and scattered from the deep channel or deep holes toward the steep shoreline and shorter structures related to the deep water sanctuary. This tells us that we will have to exercise patience and be "right on the money" when a movement occurs (regardless of the conditions for the fisherman). The structure situations fish will use during the colder season can change, or remain the same, depending on the type of body of water, and the structure types available. A small natural lake may have only two or three structure situations the fish use all year, whereas a reservoir will have many that will be used by the fish on a seasonal basis. Either way, the same guidelines apply.

UPCOMING BUSINESS: In addition to plenty of fishing reports at the upcoming meeting, the Winter Seminar will be discussed including format and contents. We also need to select a 2013 chair to facilitate club meetings. A 2013 Club Outing Survey for planning was sent out this week (thanks Bob Roels!). This should really help in planning for the year so let's plan on having a discussion at the meeting. Until then, take a look and please share your thoughts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (dates confirmed so far):

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar

Elk Grove Village, IL

March 16, 2013

Leoni Outing

Jackson, MI

June 20-24, 2013

Contact: John Zaborny

517-414-3596

jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Muskegon Lake, MI

Fisherman's Landing

July 10-14, 2013

Lunker Hunters

Contact: Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing

Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes

Forest Ridge Campground

(219-327-3551)

August 15, 16, & 17, 2013

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Buck Sez...

*You will note in this study we use two words: “mapping” and “interpretation.” There is not a great difference between the two words as far as our fishing is concerned. The word “mapping” is primarily concerned with the **where** and **what** is found in a body of water. It would include features such as deep water, shallow water, structure, breaks, breaklines, distances, etc.*

*The word “interpretation” is also concerned with what is present, and where it is found, but it goes much further, and includes weather and water conditions, the movements of the fish, the presentation of lures, etc. **Interpretation is to take the WHOLE of the conditions present, and come up with an answer as to what is best to make a catch.***

and...

*In your study of Spoonplugging, you must look at all the situations, from a “fish-eye” view. You have to place yourself in the position of the fish. When I speak of a “bar” the fish use in his migration, **just how does he view it from his position?** Why does he head toward it? Why does he use it as a guide to shallower water? In most of our study, we will be looking at it from your position --- topside, but you must also be downstairs looking up.*

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Read that last paragraph over carefully several times. Look at the watercolor painting on the back cover of the Green Book. If you haven’t done it in awhile, answer questions 1-10.
2. Winter is the perfect time to get out the maps of some lakes you like to fish, or plan to fish, and go to work on them...topside and also from a fish-eye perspective. Take notes, mark the maps, keep them together in a file or notebook for when you go fishing. Mr. Perry said repeatedly, “Your maps are the teacher you take with you.”

Season Wrap-up Checklist

by Ted Walter

If you've decided to call it quits for the winter here's a list of things to consider for the off season as projects for those cold winter nights:

1. Pull the battery from your boat, top off the distilled water (if not sealed), give it a charge and put in a cool, dry place for the winter. Test it periodically and don't let it drop below 75% of a charge.
2. Remove motor cover and spray entire motor head with WD-40, replace spark plugs. Put a small dab of white lithium grease inside the plug boot cover and smear around. While you got the grease out, take a Q-tip or artist's paint brush and coat with grease or other anti-corrosive agent and dab on the connections on your depth finder and other electronic connections to prevent corrosion. Pull your electronics and store in a dry storage area. Also, pack your trailer light connections. Use an old cut off connection to act as a protective "cap" on both your vehicle trailer connection and the boat connection after anti-corrosive is applied. Check trailer wires for wear. Sometimes wires wear through at the fasteners. Electric tape or better yet, heat-shrink sheaths help protect wear areas. Make sure fasteners are tight to prevent further wear. If you really want, you can also put a thin coating of anti-corrosive inside the trailer bulb sockets. Depends on how many knuckles you're willing to suffer digging broken, corroded bulb connections out of those rusty sockets when the bulbs need replacing!
3. Change oil and filter in motor (if 4-stroke) and change gear lube in lower unit. Grease all pivot points on motor, pushing all old grease out. Replace or at least clean fuel filter. Also, top off fuel tank with fresh gas and add fuel stabilizer. Don't drain fuel system or gaskets will dry out and deteriorate. Some folks spray "engine tuner" through the carbs with the motor on idle to "fog" the motor for the off season. This is supposed to break down any carbon build-up and makes for better compression. Better read the manual for this procedure.
4. Replace water pump impeller every few years, depending on usage. Sand, etc. gets sucked into the water intake and gradually wears the impeller to the point it no longer adequately cools the motor to the proper temperature.
5. Prop need to be rebuilt? No? Are you sure you're trolling 500's?
6. Repack trailer bearings with a good white lithium grease. It holds up best for constant submersion. Got an extra set of replacement bearings to carry with you on all trips? And the tools to replace them in an emergency?
7. Give reels a thorough cleaning with hot, soapy water, dry and lubricate, put on fresh line and leave drag backed off.
8. Check rods for loose guides, and wear grooves in guides and tip. Replace if necessary. Rods are best stored by hanging from the tips.
9. Check all cordage such as anchor ropes, lure knocker and marker buoy lines. At least one marker should have a minimum of 50 feet of line to mark deep structure, use as the rifle sight if other

reference point can't be found, or to simply act as a "decoy" to throw invading fishermen off. Label markers "DNR" to prevent dimwits from picking them up (Do Not Remove in case authorities ask).

10. Check lures for hooks that need to be sharpened or replaced. Do you have enough Spoonplugs? Of course you don't, silly! Nobody does.
11. When's the last time you read the 9 volume study guide....not just thumbed through them, but REALLY read them? Bet you there's \$100.00 there's something in there that will be of benefit to you next season.

Note-Ted Walters' article above has appeared in past issues of the Northern Indiana newsletter. It has so many helpful tips, just in case anyone missed it. Thanks, Ted!

Spoonplugger Web Sites:

Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info

Buck's Baits: buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net

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