
Illinois Spoonpluggers

April 14, 2005

Elk Grove Library, 7:15 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Elk Grove Library on Thursday, April 14, 2004 and we will begin at 7:15 PM.

The March meeting was attended by 10 members and preparations were finalized for the Winter Spoonplugging Seminar that followed on the 12th. You can read the review of the seminar below. Jerry Hein presented an informative and insightful analysis of the 2004 fishing season. He made note of the "spotty" weather but his catches indicate he was in the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner for most of the season. Late last summer, Jerry presented his structure maps of the fishing situation he found on a central Illinois reservoir. The maps have been included with his year end report. Great job, Jerry!

A club outing was discussed and the general feeling is that we'd like to plan something for the summer season. Our spring outings to the cooling lakes have been hit or miss, mostly miss, as the weather has not been cooperative. We're looking for suggestions so give it some thought.

Fishing reports are starting to trickle in and a number of members have been keeping us updated. Scott, Jim and Harry hit the Illinois River, Nick Tabor has been out to La Salle, Phil and Jim shared a boat on Heidecke, and Walt has been out checking the lakes of northern Indiana. We're looking forward to hearing more at the meeting.

LURE ORDERS: Leonard Woodrick has had a change in his work schedule and will no longer be able to handle lure orders. We'd like to thank him for his effort over the last few years. We will be putting in an order this month and we need somebody to pick up the slack. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated. There has also been a change in the shipping charge. Lure orders will now be subject to a \$3 charge and if you order a rod, it will be an additional \$3.

Welcome to *Kevin Biersack* from West Bend, WI. He is a novice Spoonplugger and joined our club after attending the March seminar. Good to have you aboard, Kevin. *Scott Stegemann* has moved to Lombard and his new telephone number is: 630-932-9681.

Topic of discussion: Fishing reports, lure orders, club outing, and a seminar wrap up.

SPECIAL NOTE: A map finder has been added to bottom of the newsletter. Just type in your address and it will give you directions to the Elk Grove Library. Next month's map will give you directions to the Richport YMCA. Try it out!

Dates for 2005 National Outings

Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers, Cedar Bluff, AL April 13-16; Land of Lincoln Spoonpluggers, Crab Orchard, June 19-22; Lunker Hunters, Muskegon Lake, MI, July 17-23; Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers, August 11-14; and North Carolina Outing, September 11-18.

2005 Seminar Summary

Well, if you missed the 3rd Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on March 12th you missed a great event. The Illinois Spoonpluggers once again served as hosts for the all day seminar that was attended by 47 Spoonpluggers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. They convened on a cold and blustery day to share Spoonplugging knowledge in the tradition of Buck Perry. For the second time, the gathering took place at the Elk Grove Public Library in their spacious meeting room. Ample parking and the room's numerous amenities made for a comfortable venue.

Special thanks go out to all the Spoonpluggers who helped make this project a success. Scott Duff and Phil Szafranski served to coordinate the day's activities and were helped by Craig Hubbard, Mike Pukacz, Wayne Dylo, Jim Duplex, Jerry Hein, and Walt Kulikowski. Thanks also to Joe Renholds for providing the handout of the questions along with a great cover sheet. A big thank you also goes out to the many Spoonpluggers who made the long trip from out of town. Your attendance and participation helped make the day a success.

Here are some of the comments from those who participated.

Top of the line. your club members deserve an at-a -boy for the job you guys did. Excellent format. Could not have been done any better. End of story. *John Bales- Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers*

This was an extremely worthwhile and well-run event. All those from our group who participated expressed a desire to attend this seminar next year also. The biggest benefits derived were the answers from many of the top Spoonpluggers from the Midwest who attended. Kudos and many thanks to all the Illinois Spoonpluggers who organized and ran this fantastic seminar! *Chase Klinesteker (Lunker Hunters)*

The IL guys did an awesome job with the entire day, well organized and on track! The time flew by! It was also great to meet so many that I have heard so much about. *Jerry Borst- Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers*

CONGRATS!!! To the Illinois Spoonpluggers club for hosting a spectacular 3rd annual winter seminar. I, as a student of Mr. buck Perry's teachings, gained a lot of information from your seminar. Everything was perfect including the location, very well planned! For all of you Spoonpluggers out there who missed this event, well you missed out! For all of the Spoonpluggers that attended, Thank you for making my wife Amanda VERY COMFORTABLE, she was very interested and helped her better understand what the heck I am doing "zooming" around these "spots". I can't say enough

HOSS-Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers

Great seminar, I am new to Spoonplugging so I learned a lot. The thing that I think will help me the most is using rifle sight lineups on trolling passes. For what we paid for the seminar, the information gained along with the food, drinks, marker, and lure makes this event a real bargain. Listening to people like John Bales and Jerry along with others during the breaks was Great info also. Thanks and will see you next year. *Tom Moore-Michigan*

I thought the seminar was great. The fact that there was so much input from some great Spoonpluggers, I think made the difference. I liked to hear the techniques that others have used to help me become more successful. The food and drink were great and plenty of it so nobody was left hungry. Great job, can you schedule the next one in a couple of weeks? Thanks, *Bob Terpstra-Michigan*

I THINK YOU ABSOLUTELY HIT IT "RIGHT ON THE MONEY"! I think Walter K. lead the seminar smoothly with great direction and focus. I liked the way you spread out the experienced knowledgeable fisherman and had them do most of the talking. The questions that were asked were attacked with answers of good substance. I'll see some of you on the water at some point this year and think you did a great job. Again thanks for the unselfish straight forward contributions. It's appreciated and some day I can return the favor. *Kevin Biersack-Wisconsin*

I had a great time! I was very impressed with the level of knowledge your club has and really wish that something like that was in Minnesota. I thought the format was great. Getting the whole seminar from audience questions was awesome. Having met the people I

correspond with online really makes this whole thing fun. I can hardly wait to start fishing. *Fran Myers-Minnesota*

The seminar was all I expected and more. I still have a lot to learn but this seminar answered the questions I had at this time. I want to thank all the members of the Illinois Spoonpluggers for the great seminar they put on yesterday. As a rookie Spoonplugger, I learned a lot and was truly appreciative of those who shared their vast amount of knowledge with us. I am already planning on attending the winter seminar next year..... *Garry Boggs - Iowa*

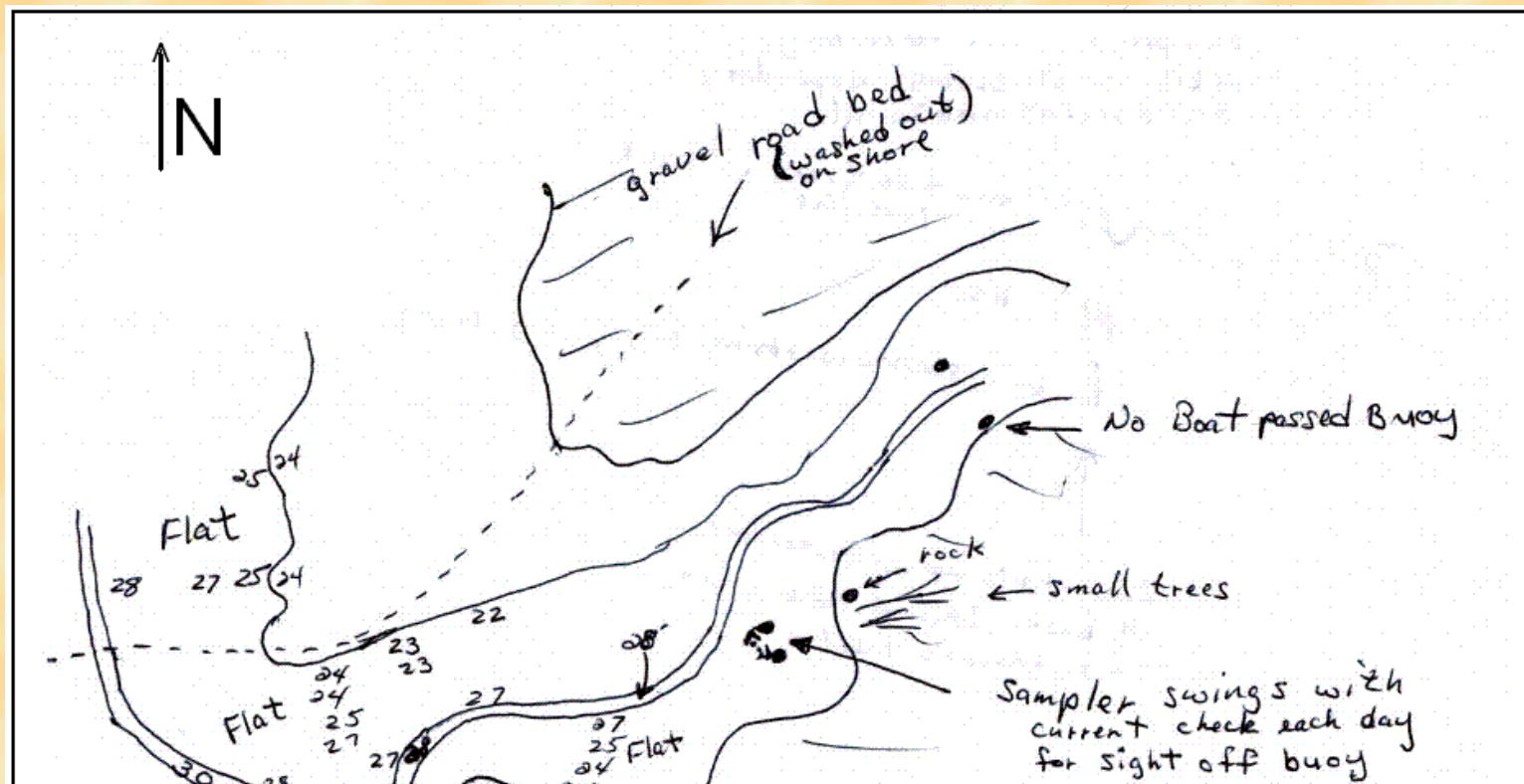
2004 Year in Review

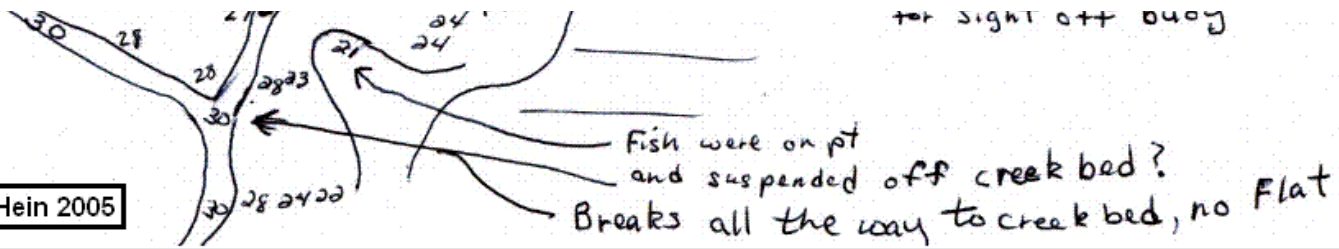
By Jerry Hein

This was a good year despite the spotty weather. The cool summer with a steady passing of fronts made for tough fishing most of the year. I stayed mainly on lakes that I was familiar with. Any time spent on new lakes was brief and with little expectation. Total days on the water were 46 and fortunately, a few days were very good which made up for the many not so good. Having a good number of days on the water will allow for some good catches in spite of the poor weather and spotty movements.

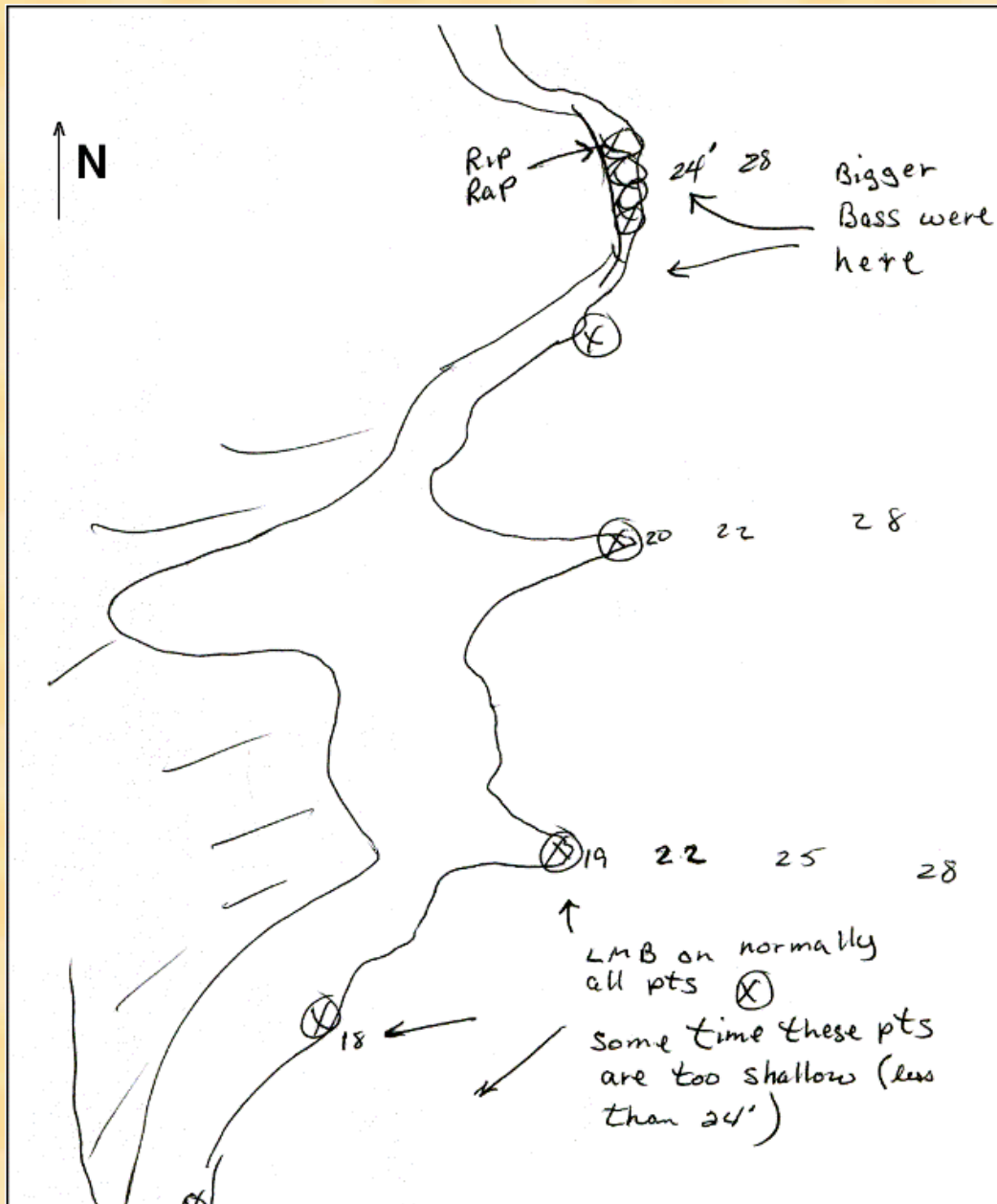
Lessons learned : Never tell the fish where they are supposed to be (they CANNOT hear you). More than once I was surprised to find the fish in unexpected depths. In Minnesota they were too shallow and too far off the break. In Coffeen they were too deep and suspended. In Wisconsin they were too far up in the shallows.

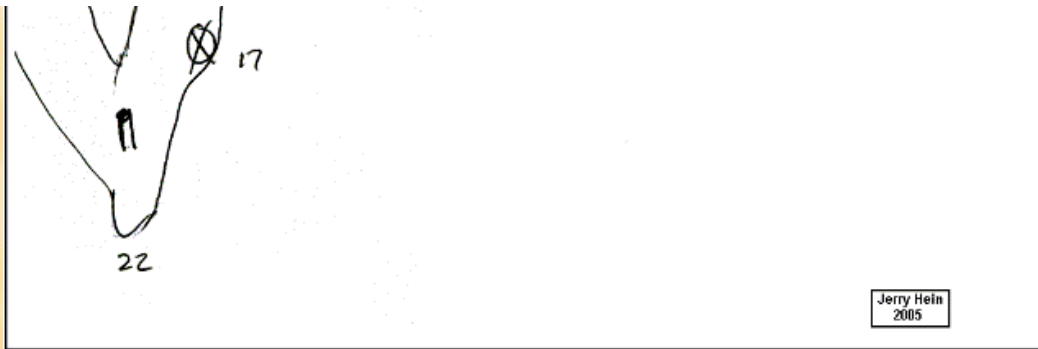
When using aids such as the GPS, depth finders, and temperature probes there is NO substitute for markers and sightlines. All other thoughts will cost me time and fish. However the proper use of these aids can save time to catch fish.





Jerry Hein 2005





Markers

By Jerry Hein

Why do we use markers?

Let's look at what Buck Sezs about markers. "We can't stress too much the importance of a fisherman using markers. Not only do they serve as signpost, but also with the proper use of markers, he can learn more easily all the phases of lure presentation and better "learn" his water. They are one of the greatest aids in mapping and interpreting... If markers are not thrown, the fisherman learns very little from the use of his depth meter. Once markers are thrown he can concentrate on his presentation of lures, his mapping, and his interpretation.

What to use for markers?

Any thing that floats will work. Some things are better than others. You can use commercially make markers or homemade markers. I use the Styrofoam type with several different line lengths. Excess line length will let the marker swing back and forth around the spot and be less effective. The lure could catch the excess line and pull the marker out of position. Too short a line or too light a weight will allow the marker to drift out off position. Too heavy a weight could sink the marker.

When to use markers?

Anytime you are not sure where you are on the water. Anytime you are not positive where the fish on the end of your line came from. Anytime you want to interpret a structure. Anytime your depth meter shows something different or unexpected on the bottom. Every time you want to put rifle sites and mapping details on the paper.

Tips when using markers

NEVER pickup your marker until you have mapped and **RECORDED** your conception of the area on **PAPER**. This includes a basic outline, anchoring position, breaklines, breaks, depth soundings, and rifle sites as a minimum.

1) Have enough markers to outline a complex structure, five or six is my minimum in the boat. Color-code the markers so different line lengths can be readily seen. When repositioning the marker on structure drop a second marker before picking up the first one.

2) When checking the distance from the break to the deep water have a marker with enough line the reach the bottom of the deepest break. I have a 50' and a 60' marker that will not unwind unless there is heavy wave action. I also use these to mark my target when casting to the deepest water in the area.

3) When a fish strike your lure while you are trolling, immediately throw a marker toward the shallows, into the weeds if possible. This marks the position of the boat when the fish hit. If you are not sure where the fish came from throw a second marker next to the first marker but off the weed edge. Now you can make a reverse trolling pass with the same lure and line length you had when the fish hit. When you feel the lure snag the second marker throw a third marker into the weeds, this marker should now be at the spot where the fish was caught. This may seem like a bit of trouble but why go through the effort of finding a good spot and then just pass it by?

4) When rifle sites are not available use a marker for your trolling pass by dropping it in line with the trolling pass but well out in front of the structure. You then use this marker for the near object and pick a spot on shore for the far object of your rifle site.

5) When fishing suspended over a brush pile or snag drift just beyond the spot and drop a marker, then anchor up wind so the snag is between the marker and the boat. If wave action from the wind or boat traffic move the boat slightly you have a target to keep your lure over the target. This is usually effective when you have youngsters in the boat. This also lets you troll a suspended lure that ticks over the snag or work a weedless presentation right through it to check out speed control.

6) When trolling for species that scatter along the breakline use markers to denote hangs along the pass. This helps to avoid the snags or to tick them if possible.

7) When fishing weedlines mark the points to help determine your straight-line passes.

Always use the minimum numbers of markers to accomplish the task. Remember, others can see your markers and they may come to investigate. I have found some good spots by being observant and brash. Pick up your markers promptly when you are finished detailing the area on paper. The next time you fish the spot you may not need any markers.

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR SPOONPLUGGING!



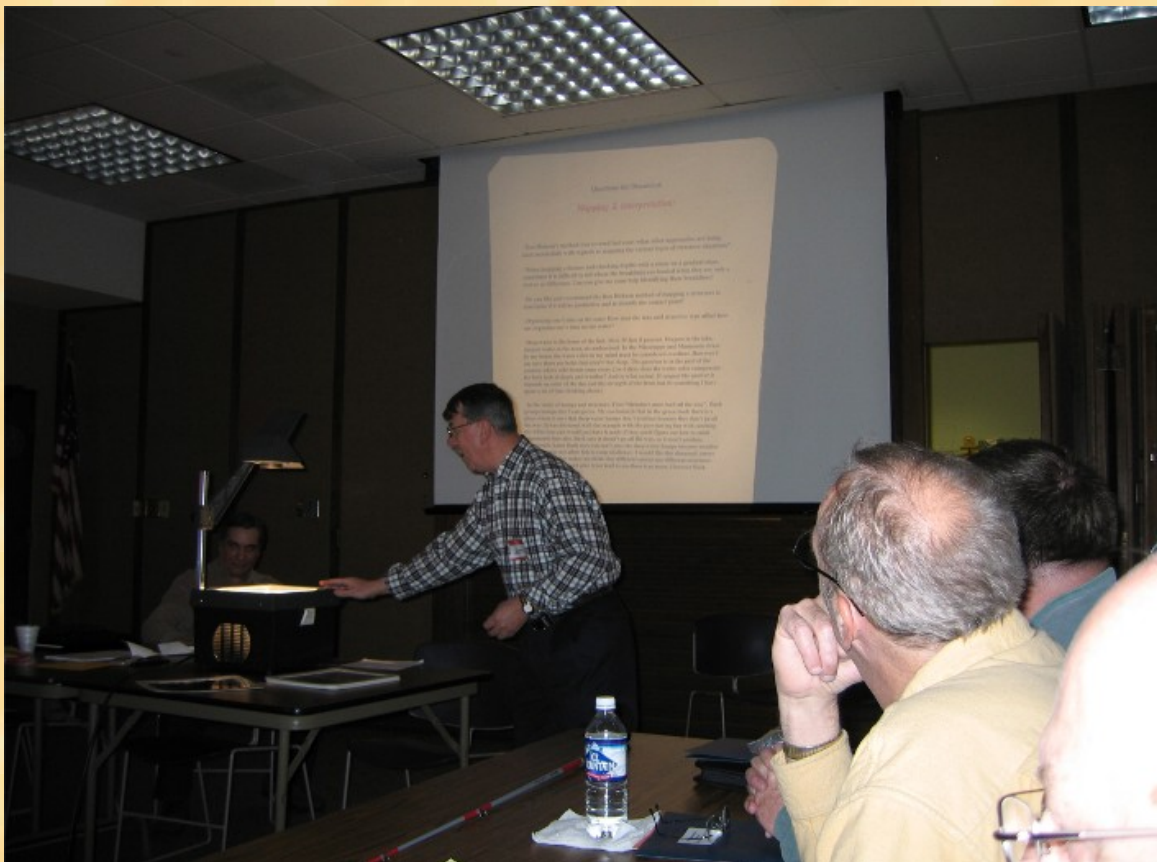
The seminar continues to grow in popularity.



The day started with registration and a continental breakfast.



Walt Kulikowski sets the tone and welcomes Spoonpluggers to the seminar.



Jerry Hein moderates the first set of questions displayed on the overhead projector.



Structure situations were displayed and discussed.



Jim Van Handel takes notes.



Lunch is served.



Vic Saunders and Chase Klinesteker share their thoughts.



Spoonpluggers share during a break.



Jerry talks about using markers.



John Bales discusses the Detroit River.



The Four Fishermen of the Apocalypse: Walt, Vic, John, and Chase pose for a group picture.



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