
Illinois Spoonpluggers

May 12, 2005

Richport YMCA, 7:30PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on Thursday, May 12, 2005 and we will begin at 7:30PM.

The club meeting on April 15 was held at the Elk Grove Library with 13 members present. Jerry Hein ran the meeting and served as moderator.

BUSINESS

1. Harvey Smith and his son will be looking at the projector to identify the problem and see if it can be repaired.
2. Due to price discrepancies on the lure order forms the lure order will be delayed until May. Jim Perillo will be handling the order so contact him if you have any questions.

FISHING REPORTS - The warm weather this spring has provided a solid start to the season as evidenced by a steady increase in fish activity. Many members have been on the water and reports have been coming in for a variety of species. Phil Szafranski and Scott Duff had a trip to remember when they hit a school of big bass casting and trolling during a two day excursion to a reservoir in southern Illinois. Jim Duplex and Gino Testone have been keeping tabs on the walleyes and clearer water at Heidecke Lake with sporadic results. Jim Perillo has been working on his interpretation of several structures on Braidwood Lake that produced some lunker bass for him last fall. Scott Duff and Harry Caliban returned to the Illinois River at Spring Valley and got into some smallmouth, sauger, and white bass. Jim Shell has been out on Lake Wisconsin as he continues his work on the lakes north of the border. Ed Zaremba recounted a memorable ice fishing experience and offered some tips for using live bait during the cold water season. In all, some encouraging reports on what could be a fine season shaping up.

PRESENTATION - Jerry Hein gave an informative presentation on replacing hooks using pliers with side cutters (dual action) and extra strong hooks. Wayne Dyllo and Craig Hubbard offered to check on suppliers for these pliers. Be sure to shield your eyes when cutting those hooks!!!

OUTINGS - Jerry underscored the value of attending National Spoonplugging Outings, while paying attention to local spoonplugger reports. Although efforts to hold planned club outings have met the fate of good ol' mother nature in some recent years, many informal club outings have resulted from various club members ending up fishing together on the same lakes. As he said, "If 4 or 5 guys show, that's an outing!" As for the National

Outings, Jerry stressed that these events offer the chance to explore new waters and lake types, and provide the great opportunity talk to and learn from some of the best fishermen around.

The latest reports coming in from Spoonpluggers indicate that Heidecke Lake has turned on. Wayne, Joe Z. and Jim have gotten limits of walleye in recent days. If you get the chance, go out there and join in the fun!

Topic of discussion: Fishing reports, early season fishing and its relationship to the weather.

Dates for 2005 National Outings

North Carolina, June 9-13, Crab Orchard, June 24-27, Lunker Hunters, Muskegon Lake, MI, July 14-18, Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers, August 12-15, and Chickamauga, TN, October 7-9.

Using Your Camera to Establish Rifle Sights

By Jim Duplex

How many of us have been inspired in our fishing by the photos contained in *A Spoonplugging Lesson* and *Spoonplugging: Your Guide to Lunker Catches*? Buck has often extolled the virtues of taking pictures of our catches. These pictures serve as a reminder of our time on the water and as motivation for the upcoming season. Pictures are an integral part of the fishing experience and a camera should be in every Spoonpluggers' arsenal.

We can, however, put the camera to use in another way. Some Spoonpluggers shy away from drawing structure maps or rifle sights because they feel it is beyond their capabilities to create a cogent picture. This is where a camera can be an aid. It can used it to help establish rifle sights and to understand the nature of the structure situation we are fishing. Below are some tips that may help you to better utilize this tool the next time you're on the water.

Picture #1 shows the broad view of a section of the lake that contains a structure situation. Note how the shoreline indicates the presence of a wide bar.

Picture #2 shows a small cottage with a single pole in the background. When the pole is lined up with the peak of the house it will put you in line for the contact point which has already been established by fishing the structure and getting into a school of bass.

Picture #3 is the 90' rifle sight. Line up both rifle sights and you have established the contact point.

Useful Tips

* Any camera will do but a digital camera allows you to see the picture immediately. You'll know right away if you got the shot you wanted.

- * **Take a picture of the general area then of the specific feature you're using as the rifle sight.**
- * **Take a picture while the boat is stationary, preferably from your casting position.**
- * **Take multiple pictures in case the first one doesn't turn out.**
- * **Make a note on your structure map concerning the details of the picture. Nothing's worse than having a photo and not being able to remember why you took it or what the rifle sight is.**
- * **Develop the pictures and notate them in a timely manner, not at the end of the season.**
- * **Notate the rifle sight on the picture. This can be done using a computer program like Microsoft's PAINT/ PHOTO EDITOR or by simply using a marking pen on the photo.**
- * **Tape the picture to the back of your structure map so that you can refer to it the next time you're on the water.**

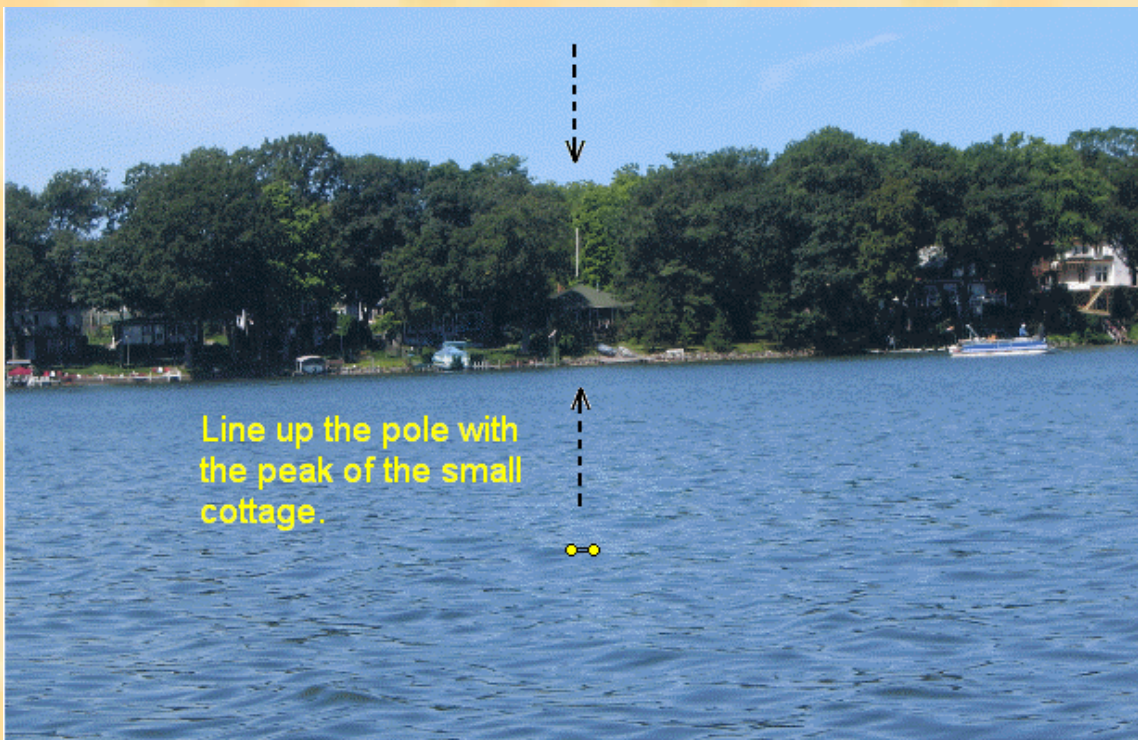
What a camera won't do.

- * **It will not catch fish.**
- * **It won't find structure.**
- * **It won't establish rifle sights if you don't already know how to line up two objects one behind the other.**

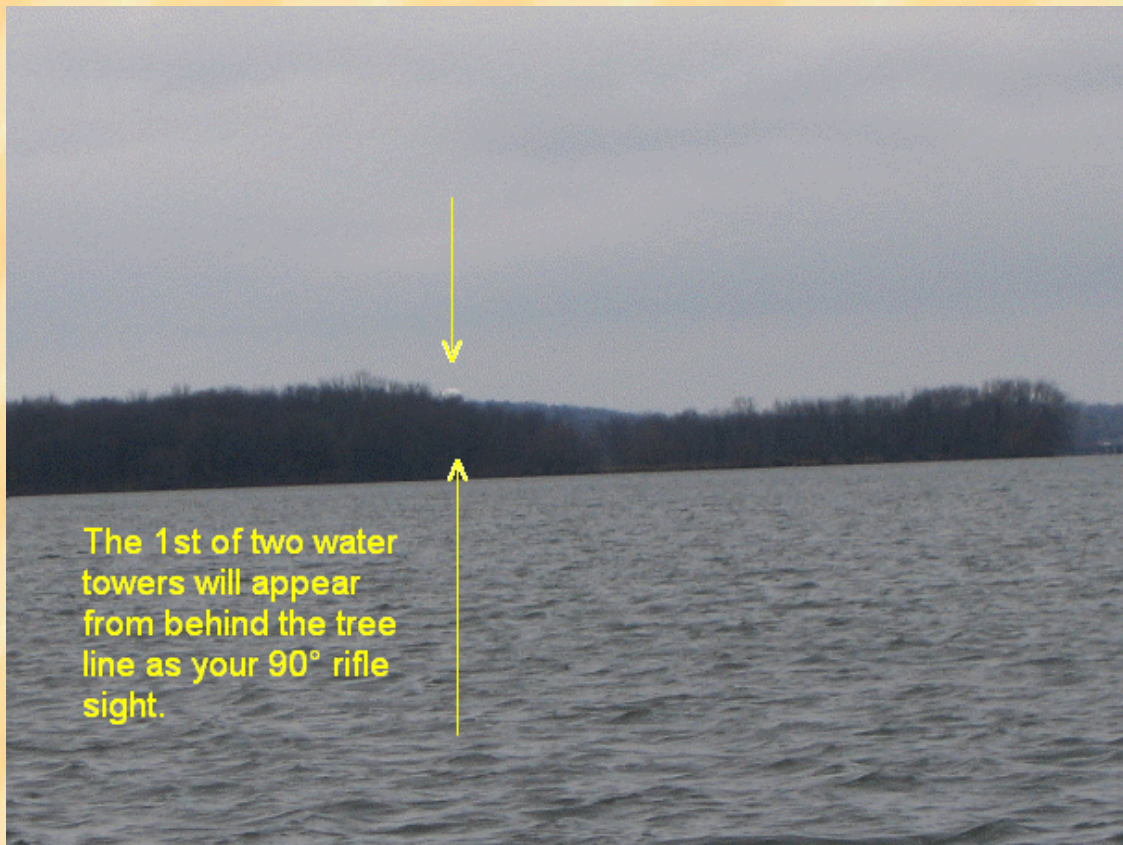
Don Nichol's has noted how important it is for the fisherman to know where he's at while on the water. Rifle sights are used to determine your location and a camera, used wisely, can help teach you how to establish and use those sightings.



1. Here is the overview of the area being fished.



2. The specific sight line is the small cottage in the middle of the picture.



The 1st of two water towers will appear from behind the tree line as your 90° rifle sight.

3. This is the 90° $\frac{1}{2}$ sightline.

The Season Has Begun!







Phil and Scott teamed up for some early season bass fishing and had outstanding results.





Jim's season starts with some walleye and a basket of white bass.



George takes on a shark down in Florida.