

## **SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP APRIL 21, 2005**

**11 attended the meeting. Welcome to Steve Taylor and Enrique Valenzuela who joined us for the first time. We hope they will continue to come in the future. Fishing reports were slim. Panfish from local lakes and a few steelhead from the Grand River were reported. Fishing has been spotty in the Detroit River for walleye. Trout, walleye, pike, and musky seasons open on inland lakes and streams the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup>, so reports should be better next meeting. Saturday morning outings were discussed and it was decided that our first will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> from the Rogue River launch on the Grand River beginning at 8AM. Plan on coming, even if you don't have a boat, as we will spread people out in the boats that are there. This is a good opportunity to see how others fish and to share information.**

**The program was a seminar titled "Spoonplugging Basics" that Chase Klinesteker had given in March at the Sport Show. It touched on the 8 areas of knowledge essential to one becoming a consistently successful fisherman. The "Wheel of Success and Satisfaction" was shown with Movements of Fish, Structure, Weather and Water, Lake Types, Mapping and Interpretation, Controls and Tools, Presentation, and Mental Aspects all being helpful to a smooth ride in our fishing endeavors. Knowledge in all these areas is important but it can't be learned in a short period of time. Spoonplugging study material was written to be used along with on-the-water experience to gain proficiency. That is why it becomes a lifetime of study, growth, and increasing success.**

**One of the subjects the seminar covered was how Spoonpluggers seem to catch their share (and more) of trophy fish. Successful fishing, as defined by Buck Perry, should include the catching of large adult fish. That is the goal of all Spoonpluggers, and the knowledge, tools, and procedures used are all aimed in that direction. 3 reasons were given in the seminar as to why Spoonpluggers catch more large fish than the average fisherman. Many other reasons could be given.**

- 1) Our procedures require us to learn as much about a lakes' structures as possible. This is mostly accomplished by trolling. We are fishing and at the same time learning structure detail. If we catch a nice fish, our search is considerably shortened. Then with detailed knowledge of the structures available, we can select a few of the best ones and concentrate our fishing on them. As Frank Hamill has reminded us about the animals on the African savannah, "the biggest, baddest, and meanest get the best lie".**
- 2) Spoonpluggers catch large fish because we find the "hidden" structures or spots. With heavy fishing pressure on many lakes, the "classic" structures that show on contour maps often have few adult fish on them. With the thorough trolling and straining of the water that our procedures require, we frequently find productive areas that are not on the map and other fishermen are not aware of. These are often found by catching a good fish on the troll and then stopping to fish and map the area in more detail. Many experienced Spoonpluggers get their biggest catches from these "hidden" structures.**
- 3) We always check the faster speeds, both casting and trolling. The largest fish in a school are the strongest, most aggressive, eat the most, and can swim the fastest. They are usually caught first. And then speed should be increased to continue catching more.**

**Think about it. Spoonplugging Procedures and Guidelines are used in the above examples to target the largest fish available. Following procedures when on the water is essential to becoming a better Spoonplugger. Do you follow procedures closely??**