



The New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen's **NEWSLETTER**

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IS THE ICE SAFE YET?

If I had a nickel every time I heard that question I'd be rich. Ice is never safe! If I had to pay a nickel every time I used that answer I'd exactly break even.

The question is a good one, how do you tell if the ice is safe. The answer is also correct. (No, it's not the bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo non-answer, it's a fact).

Some will say "Kavanaugh, you hypocrite, I saw you drive on Clear Lake before Christmas!" Yeah, I drove out there. But only after getting reliable reports of 14 to 16 inches of ice.

They say that two inches of clear, solid ice will generally support one person on foot. Four inches of ice is generally strong enough to support ice fishing. Five inches for a snowmobile. Ten to twelve inches for a car or small truck. These are merely guidelines dependent on many variables.

We all take risks, that's part of life. However, we generally have an understanding of the risk before we take part in that activity.

Generally speaking, one foot of new ice is much stronger than a foot of old ice. Ice formed by melting snow, refrozen ice or ice made by water forced through cracks to the surface and then freezing is not as strong as that formed by direct freezing.

Snow cover has a pronounced effect on the rate of ice formation and

stability. The snow insulates the ice, slowing down the rate of formation. The weight of the snow causes the ice to sag, this pressure forces water up onto the ice, creating slushy conditions.

As the ice is forming it is constantly changing its shape. This is particularly true during extreme cold or warm spells. The ice is expanding and contracting. As it does it exerts a great force on the shoreline itself. The result of this movement is the development of pressure ridges. Most times the ice buckles up, sometimes it buckles down.

Pressure ridges are especially dangerous and should be avoided. If you have to cross one, get out of your vehicle and test the ice with a chisel and auger. If there is any doubt, find another way around the pressure ridge.

If you do go through you need to get out as soon as possible! If you are on foot, don't panic (easier said than done). Your heavy clothing, especially a snowmobile suit, will actually provide flotation. (Try it, in shallow water, in the summer time). To get out go back in the direction that you came from, you know the ice held you there before you went in. At the edge, place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. Work forward on the ice by kicking your feet. (Wet ice is real slippery, I carry two short lengths of broom handle with two sharp nails driven

in the end to grab the ice). If the ice breaks, work forward and try again. Once on the ice, don't stand, roll away from the open water for some distance. then get to someplace warm!!

If you are in a vehicle that goes through you've got some bigger problems. First and foremost is getting out of the vehicle. Cars and trucks sink fast and usually end up on their roof on the bottom. The best time to get out is while the vehicle is at the surface. The doors cannot be opened until the water pressure inside the car is equal to that outside. They say that when the car is completely filled the doors can be opened, provided there has been no structural damage.

If your vehicle goes through and you get out all right you've got another problem. Getting the vehicle out of the lake. I've heard it can cost up to \$3,000 just to retrieve the vehicle, restoring it is another story. I'm not saying stay off the ice, just use common sense. check it out before you take a stupid risk.



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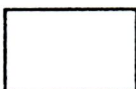
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our new Newsletter. First I would like to thank John Vorwerk and Chris Vorwerk for all the hard work they put in to setting this thing up. The Newsletter will be published monthly. We hope to give you informative articles and news of what is happening in our area. If anyone has something of interest to our Club, please get it to me by the first of the month. There is also a classified ad section if someone has something they wish to sell or are looking to buy. The cost of an ad will be \$1.00 for thirty words or less. Don't be afraid to use this section.

Our advertisers help make publication of the Newsletter possible each month. Please use their services whenever possible and tell them you saw their ad in the Newsletter.

A few tips on Catch and Release

- Time is essential. Quickly play and release fish.
- Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.
- Gentle handling is important.
- Remove hook with pliers or cut line; barbless hooks are preferred.

I would also like to remind everyone to take their trash and garbage

with them when they leave the lake. As sportsmen, we must set and example. Lets keep the lakes and shoreline clean.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The aeration system was started December 15th at 1:00 PM. The oxygen level at the time was 2.7 to 3.0. One week later the oxygen was in the range of 3.5 to 4.2. The system seems to be working well. We have had a little trouble with the open water moving to the north and have had to move thin ice signs several times. The belts on the air pump have also been replaced this year. Ten new signs were made this winter so we have some spares in case we lose a few.

As some of you may know by now New Ulm Building Center has donated materials and labor for an ice fishing house. The house is built and has been put on Clear Lake. I hope yo can come out this Sunday and take a look at it. I would also like to urge you to give Scott, Kevin and Mark Krueger a personal thank you if you happen to run into them or make a special trip out to the New Ulm Building Center and thank them. Any Club member is eligible to use the house. If you would like a key just contact me. Mike Deinken

The NUASF Newsletter is published monthly by John and Chris Vorwerk for the New Ulm Area Sports Fisherman. Send all correspondence to:
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THANK YOU

The driving force behind getting the newsletter off the ground was club Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Deinken. He hustled all the ads, did the dirty work along with help from John Vorwerk, who also has put a great deal of time into it. Hats off, I don't care what anybody says about you, you two are not that bad.

Al Zwach took it upon himself to get the club a fishhouse that we so desperately needed. He was a man possessed. When the New Ulm Building Center saw him coming they tried to run but Al persisted till they gave in. Armed with nothing more than his magnetic personality he talked the New Ulm Building Center into a dandy 10 x 16 fishhouse. It is set up for 14 holes, has a wood stove that was provided courtesy Jim Hulke and Mike Deinken. This gesture by the New Ulm Building Center is above our wildest dreams and is greatly appreciated, thank them when you see them in person.

REMINDER

WHAT: City Council Meeting

WHEN: Tues, January 21, 1992
7:30 PM

WHERE: Basement of New
Ulm City Library

WHY: Proposed Wetland Restoration at Minne Con Park as part of our "Adopt a River" project, done in conjunction with SCCMR MN DNR and New Ulm City Parks Department. Project has received preliminary approval. Let's finish it off so it will become a reality.

From your President:

This first official newsletter from the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen compels me to be a bit reflective. We certainly have come a long way from a club of 12 members in 1985, to a membership of over 70 here in 1992. It has been a lot of fun along the way, but we have always kept a good focus on fish habitat improvement. We all want to see our kids have opportunities to enjoy the one thing that puts no demand on our existence. You know, the right of every American to utter these immortal words "I'll do it tomorrow, I'm going fishin' today." Our club has a lot to be proud of, many things have been accomplished in the last 6 years. The aeration unit that was salvaged and installed on Clear Lake and the Minnesota River have sent a message to the public that we not only profess to want good fish habitat, but that we are willing to work with our own hands to achieve it. In the end everyone is a winner and personally I'm proud to be a member of this action oriented club. I would like to welcome all of our new members and tell you that this bunch can take you on a roller coaster ride so fasten your seat belts and expect the unexpected. Any newsletter is only as good as its membership makes it. We need you to contribute. If you have an opinion on something write it down and get it to the editor. He will see that it gets printed.



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SUGGESTIONS FOR NAMING NEWSLETTER INVITED

We invite suggestions for for the NUASF newsletter name. We are currently titled "New Ulm Area Sports Fisherman Newsletter". If you have an idea, Please write it down and forward it to John Vorwerk or Mike Deinken

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS

The mailing label on your newsletter includes a date on the upper right corner. This is the expiration date of your club membership. Please renew your membership on or before that date to enjoy uninterrupted NUASF service. Thank You.



Classifieds

If you have something For Sale, For Rent, Give Away, Wanted, Etc., space is available to members at the rate of \$1.00 for 30 words. Please send copy (and the dollar) to Mike Dienken.

Custom wood working, knick-knack shelves, knick-knacks. If you have an idea I might be able to make it. Call evenings. Chris Kavanaugh 359-1879.

CLUB CALENDAR

- JANUARY 12
ICE FISHING CONTEST
AT CLEAR LAKE
- JANUARY 17,18,19
MILLE LACS TRIP
- JANUARY 23
MEETING AT SCHELL'S
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