



Hook, Line, and Sinker

December
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The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

OLE FISHES BAHA, MEXICO

Yah derden! Hola, Que Pasa, Como Estas amigos and Germans!

The moon was still high in the sky over the Bay of La Paz when I awoke. Today was the day I waited for on our vacation. My amigo, Juan Chious, had lined up a fishing adventure off the coast of Baha. The anticipation of catching a big Dorato was making me loco (crazy). My wife, Rhonda, said it was just the tequila I drank the night before. She probably was right, she always is.

Anyway, the dark drive over the mountains east of La Paz to the coast of the Sea of Cortez was exciting, as we dodged donkeys and cattle on the road.

The one hour drive by car saved me a four hour boat ride to where we were to fish.

A local fisherman, named Loretto, was waiting for me as the sky lit up with a spectacular sunrise. He was to put me on the Mahi Mahi that I promised Rhonda and sister Rozalinda for dinner that night. We pushed off in his 18' Panga with 90 horse Evinrude motor and headed out into the calmest and clearest waters I had encountered on our trip. Suddenly the pain in my foot didn't seem to bother me, because I was closer to my dream. Oh yeah, the day before I

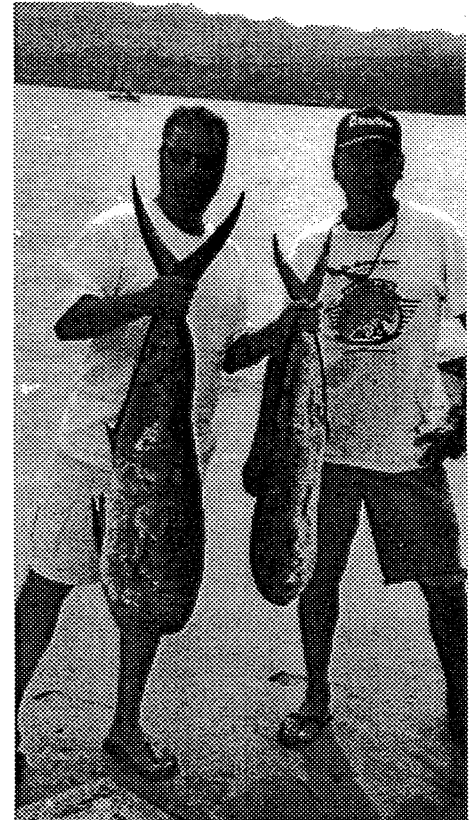
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Ice fishing contest shaping up

This coming year's fishing contest is shaping up nicely. Our major prizes are pretty well set. The NUASF and Eric Olson are providing the top prize, a Canadian Fishing Trip for two. FRABILL and Kral's Appliance Repair have donated a Portable Fish House. Kim Olson has again given us a Framed Wildlife Print and Orv Rannow has donated Five \$50 Savings Bonds. Prize chairmen, Dave Mecklenburg and Chuck Zangl, are getting members lined up to start collecting door prizes. Posters and tickets are now available and can be obtained at the December meeting



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



OLE and Loretto with Dorato or Mahi Mahi.

Stoney Award nominations being taken

It's that time of year again. Nominations are being taken for this year's Stoney recipient. The Stoney is kind of like our MVP award. It goes, each year, to the member who has given the most to promote and preserve sport-fishing in the New Ulm area. All members are eligible and can receive the award more than once. Nominations will be taken until the February meeting at which time the award will be given, by a vote of all members present, to one of our many outstanding members.

Club Calendar

December 19th

January 16th - 19th

February 9th

Meeting 7:30 p.m. - Club House

Ice Fishing - Dixon Lake

Ice Fishing Contest - Clear Lake

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From the President . . .

Give us some ice. Please give us some ice. It looks like we've got a good start on some decent ice this year. Of course we all know that ice is never safe, but some years it's sure better than others. This cold without snow cover will help make some clear hard base for the year. I look forward to ice fishing. Looks like Wednesday nights will be club night at the houses on Clear Lake again as usual. Stop out if you've got the notion.

Our December meeting will fall early this year because of Christmas, so mark your calendars for the 19th at 7:30 p.m. as usual. We will have a full agenda, so make it out to the club office to give your input and help to guide our future as an organization. As always the membership drive is coming to an end in December. Remember bring out a prospective member and enjoy a free refreshment for you and your guest. I know I speak about membership a great deal and probably belabor the point, but we continue to grow and our new membership is what invigorates all of us with renewed enthusiasm and insight. So welcome to all of you who have joined this past year, we are proud to have you as members and don't be bashful about bringing new members yourself.

Our ice fishing contest tickets are available now, just get in touch with Mike Deinken and he will set you up. Over a decade ago, we adopted a policy of selling tickets for the contest ahead of time and it has served us quite well. Year in and year out, the ice fishing contest has been our largest and most productive fund raising tool. Thanks to the experience and expertise of our club members, the contest became a pretty well oiled machine. Just like any machine though it needs maintenance. We need to show our new members the ropes and get those members who are first time helpers with the contest up to speed on what to do. So if you are a new member who wants to help, or if you are a first time helper, don't hesitate to let one of the board members, prize coordinators, or officers know that you are willing to participate. We need you and will point you in the right direction. The board of directors, officers and their phone numbers are listed in each issue of the "Hook Line and Sinker". This year our prize coordinators are Dave Mecklenburg and Chuck Zangl.

Our boat raffle will also culminate at the contest. It is now making money, so it behooves us to sell tickets. For tickets for the raffle, contact Orv Rannow or Mike Deinken.

We will see you at the next meeting. Happy Holidays!

Meeting Changed

Again this month we have to move our meeting night ahead because of a holiday. This year Christmas falls on the day before our regular meeting night. The meeting has been moved up one week to December 19th.

Watch your step

With the lakes starting to freeze up, we would like to urge everyone to use caution when going onto the ice. Early ice can be very inconsistent. Please be careful and check the ice as you go out.

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The NUASF Board

President - Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice-President - Jerry Carlson (354-8869); Secretary / Treasurer - Mike Deinken (359-9650); Board Members: Jim Huelke (354-3654), Dave Mecklenburg (794-7859), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).

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had a fight with the Devil Manta Ray while swimming and OLE lost. But that's a whole other story for another issue. Now it was time to fish!

We motored only twenty minutes to catch our bait fish. Loretto was a true fisherman, a family man who lives to fish to feed and clothe his family. They don't need many clothes down here because its perfectly warm weather every day. I noticed this right off the bat as I surveyed the beaches for bikini clad 'muchachas caliente'.

I wondered what Loretto was doing as he hopped up on the bow of the Panga and tossed his bait net into the shallows. Then he stomped on the deck and shimmering sardines jumped and scattered into his net. I think to myself, he's done this before. As he filled his bait well with these little baitfish, I look into the clear aqua waters around us. I see everything one could imagine in the under waterworld. Sea urchins, starfish, coral, eels, small sea turtles and every kind of fish imaginable in every size and color. The richest waters in the world. God has quite the imagination.

When the well was filled, we headed out about one hundred yards or so to fish, or so I thought. As quickly as my bait tipped line hit the water, the Bonito hit. I wasn't expecting a torpedo to attack! As my line flew off of the reel, Loretto hollered brake, brake, brake! (The only English he spoke). So I flipped the brake and the fight was on. I thought I had a monster hooked. What a fight! But when Loretto gaffed it on board, it was only twelve to fifteen pounds. It was shaped like a muscle bound football, very fast and agile. The Bonito was to be used for bait. We caught small bait to catch bigger bait to catch bigger fish. OLE was starting to catch on. Bigger than fifteen pounds was about what I had in mind.

Loretto rerigged my mind and my fishing rod. He spoke in Spanish and I just shook my head and said Si!Si! We trolled for an hour after we caught a dozen Bonitas and a couple of bright colored needle fish, three to four feet in length. The needle fish have lots of very sharp teeth. Even Loretto stayed away from the hook. He stunned them with a club, before releasing them to the frigate birds and laughing gulls. As they dived into them and broke them apart, I thought it was worth the trip just to watch them fight right by our boat. Frenzy feeding above water.

But I was here for frenzy feeding below the surface. And soon I saw the water swirl behind our surface bait. Loretto slowed down a split second and boom! they hit and we had a double on. We let them run a short time and then Loretto again hollered brake, brake, brake! I flipped the brake and the rod almost flew out of my hands. Yahoo! I knew it was Dorato and not yellowfin because Dorato ride the surface and tuna dive deep.

The two lines crossed over many times as we frantically tried to keep them from tangling. A female and a bull were on, but we didn't know which one had what. I landed the female first, then it took a while to land the bull. My arms were getting tired but the adrenaline was flowing. It took twenty-five to thirty minutes and fifteen jumps completely out of the water before Loretto gaffed the bull Dorato on board. My heart was pounding. Muy Bueno, Loretto screamed! I screamed Muchos Gracias! Dinner is served. My wife and amigos will be happy tonight for fresh fish.

We fished for a while longer, but the high noon sun took its toll on us and the fish. These fish are similar to Minnesota fish in that they don't bite at midday. No wonder I don't catch many fish because that's the time I usually get and go.

We returned to the fishing village where Loretto's bambinos greeted us with smiles and excitement. I got my fish and took my pictures before Loretto filleted them and packed them for the trip back to La Pa. I gave him one thousand pesos (\$100) and he was gracious and thankful. I gave him the remainder of the food I brought. He especially liked the fresh bananas and apples for his bambinos as fruit is hard to get on this side of the mountain or it was too costly to buy.

The trip back in daylight over the mountain was every more scenic than I thought. We returned to La Paz and it was siesta time. OLE was tired. My amigo, Juan Chious, knew a restaurateur that would prepare my fresh caught Mahi Mahi to perfection. Bueno Vino Bueno Amigos, Muy Bueno Dorato! OLE and Lena had escaped Montezuma's revenge and look forward to coming back to Baha.

P.S. Of course we packed the leftover fillets in lye and salt and let it sit out in a barrel in the sun for weeks. OLE will try lutefisk with Salsa this Christmas!

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