



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

July  
2013  
Volume 26  
Issue 7

*The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen*

*New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: [newulmsportfish.org](http://newulmsportfish.org)*

## Tweaking big lake tactics for more home water Walleyes

by Mitch Eeagan

Walleyes are walleyes no matter where they wander. As a general rule, whether they reside in inland lakes, rivers, reservoirs or the Great Lakes, their year-round habits are shaped by two things: spawning and eating. With that said, you'd think the same techniques would work the same wonders for conjuring up strikes regardless of where you fish. Well, you know what? By and large, they do. But some big water tactics need a little tweaking to produce on you average sized natural lake.

Take the trolling plays used to catch walleyes on the Great Lakes and huge reservoirs of the West; they'll also work wonders on small inland lakes. The size and depth of the watercourse, however, may restrict you from setting up as many lines before beaching on the opposite shore, or, using the exact same lures and line, not snagging in the shallows with every trolling pass. But it can be done. And oftentimes the tactics normally used on big water will out produce the tried and true ones generally associated with smaller lakes.

### **Down and out**

My own experiences with fine-tuning big water tactics for tiny water 'eyes come from the small inland lakes of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. For years the small water techniques of jigging, rigging and casting crankbaits were the tradition on the tannic-stained waterways surrounding basecamp. And we caught

fish... well, most of the time. But I'll admit there were times the fish were smaller and fewer than we'd like. And some years, honestly, they were nearly nonexistent. But since being exposed to the modified big-water trolling tactics from two Lund walleye pros, I've modified the way I fish small waters. And once I started landing more and bigger fish than the others at camp, it didn't take long for everyone to follow suit.

### **Lead lowdown**

The first ploy I practiced just a few years back was trolling leadcore, which I learned from walleye wizard Mark Martin. "Pulling leadcore in small lakes is probably the most overlooked method of them all," says the Twin Lakes, Michigan, pro. "Perhaps it's because the system is so easy to use, and anglers want to make things more difficult than they need to be."

Literally pulling plugs right behind his Lund Pro-V, Martin lets out only 3 to 4 colors of 'core (each color representing 10-feet of line) depending on how deep the water is and where he's marking fish. To the tip of the lead-filled line he ties on a 6-foot leader of 10-pound-test monofilament.

"In smaller lakes I may only have time to let out two lines before running out of room, so I'll have my partner deploying and fishing out one side of the boat while I do the same on the other. And we'll just hang onto the rods rather than put them in a holder so we can immediately adjust the amount of line out if our lures hit bottom, or quickly reel in before starting another

pass," he adds.

Martin's two best baits for trolling behind leadcore are #5 Rapala Shad Raps and spinners (aka: crawler harnesses) with plump night crawlers fresh from his Plano 745 Worm and Leech Box. When cranks are being pulled, Martin creeps along at .08 to 1.4 MPH, while he averages 1.2 to 2 MPH when trolling crankbaits. And he trolls one or the other on all rods, not a combination of both, because of the differences speed requirements. The first time I tried this was after several hours of jigging the usual shallow water haunts without success.

One pass while scanning with my Humminbird sonar and I spied fish hovering about 10-feet off bottom in 35-feet of water. With three colors of leadcore out on an 8-foot St. Croix Eyecon trolling rod and Diawa line-counter reel with a crankbait in tow, it took only four passes through the short, few hundred yard area to scoop a two-man limit of walleyes. It was a small water leadcore lesson learned.

### **He ain't heavy**

There are still those days, however, when walleyes seem to disappear from sonar's sight over main-lake basins. When this is the case, more than likely, the fish are ultra shallow and tucked tight to cover. "When walleyes are in skinny water they're usually hanging close to weeds, wood and rocks. And when the bite is off, it's best to cover as much water as possible and get your offering in front of as many fish as possible," says guru-of-getting-walleyes-to-strike, Mark Brumbaugh. "But trolling in shallow weed-infested waters can be frustrating... unless you break out the heavy line, that is."

When pulling small Reef Runner crankbaits or spinners in shallow water, Brumbaugh ups his trolling reel's main line to 20-pound-test monofilament and

## Club Calendar

**July 25th NUASF Club Meeting**

**Aug. 14th Kids Fishing Contest (4-7Pm River Side Park)**

**Aug. 15th NUASF Social Night at Club House**

**Aug. 29th NUASF Club Meeting**

**Sep. 12th NUASF Social Night at Club House**

**Sep. 25th NUASF Club Meeting**

**Continued on page 2**



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## From the President .....

By Jason Kuester

### The next BIG club event is The kids fishing contest at Riverside Park.

Mark your calendar for **August 14th**. This event takes a lot of volunteers and we would appreciate as much help as possible. Most of the prizes for this event are picked up. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work putting this event together. Our main goal is to make this a fun event for the kids. At the next meeting, there will be a sign up sheet to help organize what needs to be done on the day of the event. This will help everyone plan for the event Thanks in advance for helping with this great event.

Summer is screaming by, take time to enjoy it! Something as simple as fishing with family and friends can build a lifetime of great memories. If you would like to use a club boat they are located by Ron L shed behind New Ulm Glass. Your club keys will unlock the locks. If you have any questions give me a call at 507-381-2041.

Summer is here and what a great time to bring our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman Club. We are always looking for new members to join. If you know of someone bring them along and show them how much fun we have at our club. As always, bring a friend and each of you will receive a free refreshment of your choice!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

### Tweaking from page 1

often ties the snap directly to the thicker-than-normal line. "The water resistances due to the line's broad diameter will keep the lure up and off the bottom, free from snags. And when tucked deep onto cover, walleyes will dart up and out for a quick strike, even when the lure is several feet over head," he adds.

Only if the lure's action is diminished because of the heavier, stiffer line will Brumbaugh add two feet of lighter 10-pound-test leader material, which he attaches via a small ball-bearing swivel. The swivel, too, acts as a "snare" if weeds are floating on the surface and catching and wrapping the line. If he's fishing straight off the 20-pound test, Brumbaugh will pinch on a tiny split-shot about two feet above the lure to keep weeds off it. Maximizing his bite, Brumbaugh employees Off Shore in-line planer boards to get as many lines extended from the path of his Lund and out to fish that haven't been spooked.

It was literally just last year that I took Brumbaugh's advice and spooled 20-pound to the reels on my St. Croix Eyecon rods and tickled the weed tops with crankbaits and spinners. The result was another upset bunch back at camp that didn't know about this heavy-line trick.

Sorry guys. Well sort of...

Taken from website: <http://fishingminnesota.com/>

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**Hook, Line,  
and Sinker**

The *Hook Line and Sinker* is published monthly by Joyce Reese graphic design for the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, P.O. Box 294, New Ulm, MN 56073.

#### The NUASF Board

President - Jason Kuester (381-2041); Vice-President - Gary Sprenger (359-9358); Secretary - Ross Nelson (507-766-0765) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Ron Ludewig (507-276-6093), Mike Buechner (354-2739 s), Ken Sutherland (507-276-1534).

**Monthly Meeting** June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Members present: 45+, Notes by Tony Miller

**Secretary Report**

Motion made by Jim Leibl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Kuester to accept report as read. Passed unanimously

**Treasury Report**

Balance \$ Motion made by Jim Leibl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Orin Schultz to accept report as read. Passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Membership update. Membership stands at 192 with 29 due

Membership Drive – Jason

Discussion to waive membership fee for Elmer Epke. Motion made by Orin Schultz, second Jim Leibl to waive membership fee. Passed unanimously.

**B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report**

Lake Washington – HOT!!!! Sunnies, crappies

Jim Hulke recommends Princess pole to catch big carp!

Redwood River 3 – 5 pound catfish

Mike Dienken caught a hook worth \$700 (in his finger)

Little Cottonwood – Channel Cats/Walleye/Northern

**Club House News**

Grounds cleanup on Social Night. 11 members attended. Everyone did a great job!

Discussion – need to repair parking lot, driveway, and club grounds damaged from recent rains.

Gary Sprenger presented a quote for gutters on clubhouse. for gutter covers)

Motion made by Ken Kohn, second by Orin Schultz to accept quote to begin work on gutters. Passed unanimously. Hats and T shirts are ordered from Printwear Graphics. Sleepy Eye Sportsman Club expressed interest in assistance to pay for reconditioning of landing. Jason Kuester is working on permits from DNR to proceed on Clear Lake landing project. A presentation is planned for the July club meeting.

**New Business**

A. Thanks to Elmer Epke for pork chops meal. Also, Elmer donated proceeds from bucket collection back to the club

B. Discussion: 7 Mile Creek project. Board recommended donation to the project pending approval from membership.

- Motion made by Jim Leibl, second by Ken Kohn to accept recommendation. Passed unanimously.

C. Discussion: Wild River Canoe Trip. Board recommended donation towards sponsorship of one child. - Motion made by Ted Suss, second by Jim Hulke to accept board recommendation

- Passed unanimously

- More discussion to have Natalie Warren to come to a meeting for a presentation

**Youth Fishing Contest**

- Flyers are ready. Everyone should take at least one and post them

- Date Wed. August 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 7:00pm at Riverside Park

- Checks to be written to Runnings/ Retzlaf's/ Scheels/ NAPA

- Discussion suggestions to invite/include River Rangers (Ron Bolduan), Pro-Kinship for Kids to attend YFC

- Flyer will be added to website/ Jason will send email.

- Any prizes or donations to YFC see Jim Hulke or Mark Dauer

E. Iowa Trip (Tony Miller- Trip to include stops at both Heron Lake and Spirit Lake barriers, Berkeley Laboratory, Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum, possibly return to Iowa DNR hatchery, and more.

- Discussion for club to pay for transportation but charging members a set amount to offset the transportation costs.

- Motion made by Ted Suss, second by Kim Olson to pay transportation charges after members pay a deposit.

- Passed Unanimously

F. Food for next mtg: Pot Luck

**G. Other New Business**

- Discussion about Jesse ??? bow hunting of carp. Orin Schultz suggested the club should support this project to irratate carp.

- More discussion about bow hunting – Outdoor News article “Cuffs and Collars” featured a study done by the DNR on bow hunting as it relates to fishing

- Received a Thank You letter and photo from Mark Dienken in a club Tshirt

- See Jim Hulke for raffle tickets from Auto Fest.

- Eric Olson has hamburger for \$3/lb

- Keep members and family in your prayers: Ron Bolduan (back surgery), Ross Nelson's wife Barb (hip surgery), and Lloyd Havemeier (appendix surgery).

ADJOURN: Information escapes me :(

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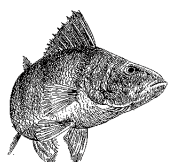
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