



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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How to Choose the Best Among Portable Ice Fishing Shelters

By Jay Coburn @ myfishingpals.com

If you are a big fan of ice fishing and it's a must do activity for you to do every winter, a portable ice fishing shelter should be an important part of your fishing gear. It helps you keep warm and enjoy this great outdoor activity without having to succumb to the biting cold. There are several types of portable shelters available in the market. We will discuss about some of them here, so that you can make an informed choice.

The different types of shelters available:

There are mainly four styles of portable shelters that are popular among ice fishing experts. The first and most basic are the Windbreakers, the second are the easy to set up collapsible shelters, third the extremely popular flip over shelters and the fourth the cabin or hut type shelters. The first of the lot are the windbreakers that are lightweight and thus very easy to carry around anywhere.

Windbreakers and collapsible shelters

Windbreakers are the most basic ice fishing shelters available and they weigh no more than 12-13 pounds. These are shelters that are usually designed for a single person and come with a seat and two or three walls for your protection against the harsh winter wind. They are also cheap and you are likely to find one online for less than \$ 150.

However, the downside with them is that they do not provide protection overhead, so if you are planning to go fishing in very cold areas, this variety will not serve you that well.

In that case you can consider the second variety among portable ice fishing shelters i.e the collapsible shelters. The design of these shelters is like those of your camping tents. But these collapsible shelters are tailor made for the needs of the ice fishing enthusiast. There are external poles that serve as the frame of the shelter. The floor is made up of flexible fabric.

That makes them much more lightweight compared to those with a hard plastic flooring. The other advantage of having a lightweight fabric as flooring is that it comes with holes that are pre cut, so that your fishing becomes easier and more enjoyable experience. The only disadvantage that you may face with these collapsible shelters is when the weather is too windy. You may find it a challenge to set up the poles in such weather conditions.

Flip over and cabin type shelters

The third and extremely popular amongst portable ice fishing shelters are the flip over shelters. These are shelters that come in

models that can seat from one to four people. The flip over shelters are built over a hard plastic sled base. This is the foundation that not only holds the seats but also acts as a foundation for the poles that can be adjusted.

When you are ready to fish, all you have to do is sit on the seat provided, extend out the poles and simply flip them over, like you would do in a convertible car. You can keep the shelter completely open, open it up to halfway or keep it closed fully according to the weather conditions. If you buy a flip over shelter with windows or any other ventilation system, you can also use a heater that runs on propane gas to keep yourself warm inside the shelter. The only problem with this type shelter is that the plastic sled base makes it heavier and a tad bit difficult to carry around.

The fourth option that you have are the cabin style shelters. These are much like the flip over shelters with the hard plastic sled base and the adjustable poles. However they usually take much longer to set up than the flip over styles of tents because these are full blown cabins or huts. These are usually the largest models available and can seat anything between 4-8 people easily.

They are usually folded into half to ease transport. In order to set them up, you have to first unfold the floor of the shelter and set up the poles and then the roof. Once this is up it will be shaped like a rectangle and will be roomy like a full fledged hut. There is also a lot of headspace in such models which makes them extremely comfortable. Cabin type shelters also come with heaters and other gear that can make your ice fishing trip really enjoyable. It's recommended for those

Continued on page two

Club Calendar

Note: Feb. 6th We need volunteers to put all the prizes together for the contest

Jan. 9th NUASF Social Night at Club House

Jan. 30th NUASF Club Meeting (Eric Olson/Steak Night before the meeting)

Feb. 6th NUASF Social Night at Club House (Put all prizes together for contest)

Feb. 9th NUASF Ice Fishing Contest on Clear Lake 10am – 3pm

Feb. 13th NUASF Fishing Trip to Dixon Lake

Feb. 27th NUASF Club Meeting

March 13th NUASF Social Night at Club House

March 27th NUASF Club Meeting



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

As most of you all know Eric Olson will be visiting us at our next meeting. Eric is a wonderful asset to our club and we would like to THANK him for his support. Eric donates trips for our Fishing Contest, membership drive, and also provides us with a great STEAK meal at our January meeting. To help with this great meal we are asking everyone to please bring a dish to pass. Eric will also be bringing extra hamburger along to the next meeting if you are interested in purchasing some from him.

P.S. Eric will be serving the meal before the meeting! Gate will be open at 5:30 p.m.

Thank You to everyone that helped put up the Thin Ice Signs on clear lake!

As everyone knows our Clubs Ice Fishing Contest is February 9th. We should have the prizes collected, and posters in place within the next couple weeks. Ticket sales can continue up to the day of the contest. Once again this is our clubs biggest money maker, and we will need many volunteers for this event. Tickets and posters are available at the next meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 or myself at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net and we will get you as many as you would like.

All prizes must be turned into the club on or before Thursday February 6th. We will be having a special meeting on the 6th at 6:00 pm to organize all of the prizes for the contest.

There are 33 people signed up for the Dixon Lake resort trip! I need to have everyone's down payment by the next meeting. Due to the great turnout there will be a signup sheet for meals, and spear houses at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the next meeting contact me at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net.

Winter 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! Have a great day!!

Fishing Shelters continued from page one

for those who are going fishing with family or a group of friends. It's easier to put these up when you have help.

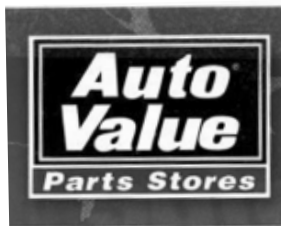
Pointers to keep in mind

Before you invest in a portable ice fishing shelter there are certain things you must keep in mind. Firstly do not invest in one just for the heck of it. Ice fishing shelters make sense for those who are interested in hard water angling as a sport and have some prior experience in it. In case you go out ice fishing every season it makes sense for you to invest in a good shelter. See to it that you invest in one that has good and comfortable seats and a zipper door. Zipper doors not only give you an easy exit but also provide you extra ventilation when you need it.

We also strongly recommend you to buy a shelter that comes with windows. The light that comes into your tent through the window will be useful and help you keep an eye on things outside. Last but not least, ensure that the portable shelter fits in properly inside your car. For truck owners and SUV owners this is not likely to pose a problem. But if you have a compact car, you need to check the dimensions of the shelter before you invest in one.

Jay Coburn is an avid ice fisherman for over 30 years and occasional writer. Find more information about portable ice fishing shelters here: northernicefishing.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).

New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen Monthly Meeting Dec 19th, 2013 Members Present: 55+

I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded by Jim Hulke to accept report as read. Passed unanimously.

II. Treasury Report

A) Balance

1) Motion made by Scott Sparlin and seconded by Jim Liebl to accept report as read.

Passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

A) Membership update.

1) Membership stands at 185 – 26 Due. Jason Kuester wins membership drive with 8

B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) Clear Lake – 14" ice, Ice House are out.

2) Lake Washington – Catching everything.

3) High Island – 300 house on the ice. Walleyes 15"-16" also 1 – 24" 5#3oz

4) Dixon Lake – 10" of ice with a lot of snow on top of the ice. Northern 20 caught over 36"

5) Scott Sparlin Lake Winnie story from years past. Temp (-56 below)

6) Lake Crystal – Catching a few walleye on Loon.

7) Everyone be careful ice conditions are not good.

C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) Driveway cleared, clubhouse cleaned and Christmas tree put up by Jason K.

2) Jim Hulke put new tips on the clubhouse chairs.

3) Tony Miller will be having a family Christmas party at the clubhouse on Jan 4th

IV) Other Old Business

A) Please remember to send in the postcards for the Minnesota River Blueway designation.

V) New Business

A) Scott Sparlin Report

1) MN Bound and host Ron Schara were at High Island Lake – Show will air late March or early April.

2) Thanks to all that sent in Blueway postcard. Chances of the MN River getting designation are good.

B) High Island Lake Report

1) Ice Fishing contest will be held Jan 18th they can use help again this year, 5-6 people

2) Cash prizes for biggest fish, also a youth contest will be held.

3) \$5.00 entry fee, contest times: 10-2, Registration starts at 9:00 AM

4) Possibly should consider raising food prices

C) Tony Miller – There are 4 ad spaces open in the club newsletter.

D) Fishing Contest Report

1) Prize collection sign up. Please give John Rolloff or Pat Roiger were you are going

2) Ticket sales need to improve.

3) Food license in the works. Signup sheet see Tom Simonson. Hy Vee is in to help with food costs.

4) DNR & County permits have been submitted.

5) Eric Olson bought back some hamb patties for the contest, are in Ken Sutherlands refrig.

6) Prize collection meeting Thursday before the contest. We should also have a meeting the

Social night before contest to access were we are at.

7) Club members must ask for fish house tickets we don't send them out. If you take some and Don't return, you will be responsible for the cost.

8) Should do Hockey contest again.

9) Jason K has talked to KNUJ

E) Winter Trip Dixon Lake

1) Feb 13-16th - \$50 deposit to Jason K

F) Food for next meeting – Eric Olson possibly may be coming

VI) Other New Business

A) Thanks to everyone that have help with fish house sales.

B) Jan/Feb board meeting financial report. We have to look at how we are spending our money. Cut it very close this year.

C) We would like to do a trip to Iowa this May to see the carp control barriers. \$10 deposit.

D) Aeration signs will be put out Sat 21st 9:00

E) See Jim Hulke – For Sale - Jiffy 3HP auger \$265

VII) Adjourn @ 8:52

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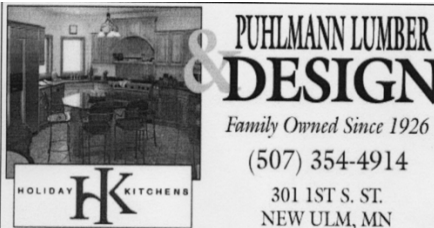


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