



Hook, Line, and Sinker

March
2014
Volume 27
Issue 3

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

Inactive Bite Ice Fishing

By Bob Bohland

The most frustrating thing in ice fishing is knowing you are on fish and seeing them on your flasher or underwater camera, but not being able to get them to bite. Through the course of a winter I encounter this quite often on the metro lakes I fish. Often times it is caused by fishing pressure due to the lake being popular or heavily fished due to a tournament, but it can also be caused by changes in weather patterns. Many anglers either immediately switch to micro presentations or throw in the towel all together. However, in tournament situations, giving up really isn't a viable option, so I have been forced to come up with a variety of different tactics for catching these inactive fish.

One of the most important things to consider when targeting neutral or negative fish is how your jig appears in the water. Often times fish haven't completely shut down, they simply want something presented in a very specific way. More often than not this means a horizontal presentation. While fish can be caught on vertical presentations when they are actively feeding, switching to a horizontal presentation is sometimes the only way to catch them. I have had days when my

jig being off horizontal by 10 degrees would make the fish ignore my offering altogether. The best way to ensure your jig fishes properly is to view it in water before you get on the ice. Whether it be by putting it in a bucket of water, or the tank on the back of the toilet, knowing how your jig will sit in the water with different knots, plastics, jigging motions, etc. is invaluable. My favorite knot for ice fishing is the improved clinch knot. It tightens up against the eyelet of the jig and allows me to adjust how the lure sits in the water. This is very helpful in that not every lure will sit horizontal when the knot is straight up off the eyelet. An important thing to pay close attention to is the diameter of your line. If you are using too heavy of a line, there will be loose coils between your rod tip and the jig. This can cause missed fish due to light bites not being felt at the rod tip or seen on a spring bobber. The fish will sometimes bite light enough to only take the slack out of the line but no move a spring bobber. With today's modern reels and advancements in line strength 1 to 2 lb test is not too light with a proper drag setting, and will allow almost any jig to tighten the line.

While a horizontal presentation is the



Dick Peterman presents Dave Mecklenburg a donation for the E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund. The donation is proceeds from Dick's fall fishing contest.

first thing I will try during a light bite, it doesn't mean it is the only one that will work. I have had fish that will be picky enough to choose only a strictly vertical presentation as well. Sometimes they even want a presentation that is at an angle. This is why one of my rods is always rigged up with a Lindy Genz Bug. The jig is designed in such a way that by rotating my knot, I can adjust from vertical to horizontal or anything in between in a matter of seconds instead of having to retie with numb fingers. Another variation I was shown by one of the NAIFC competitors was the verti-zontal presentation. This consists of a vertical jig with a plastic such as a Micro-Mino half threaded onto the hook so that the plastic stays horizontal. The tail moves quite a bit with even the slightest quiver of the rod tip when rigged this way.

Another thing to consider is how to jig the lure. A lot has been said about how an

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Club Calendar

March 27thNUASF Club Meeting
April 10thNUASF Social Night at Club House
April 24thNUASF Club Meeting
May 15thNUASF Social Night at Club House
May 29thNUASF Club Meeting



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

We will be awarding the Stoney Award at the March meeting. If you have someone you would like to nominate please nominate them by e-mailing me at jr@newulmtel.net or by nominating them at the meeting on March 27th. The Stoney award goes to the member who has volunteered his or her time to the club, and towards improving the quality of sport fishing in the New Ulm area.

Just an early reminder, we will be discussing our spring clean up projects at the next meeting. They are the: Community Clean Up for Water Quality, Club Grounds, and the Riverbank Clean Up. This is a great event for our club in preserving the cleanliness of our rivers and city. We are always looking for new ideas. Feel free to bring them to the next meeting. We will be discussing dates for events for the rest of the year.

We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the Berg family (Randy, Junior/Robert, and Kenny) for letting us use there access to Clear Lake again this year.

I would also like to recognize Mike and Jeff Studtmann for putting together the 5th annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing contest at Studtmann Pond. It was a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family. We had around 20 members on the pond. Thank you to all who attended!!

Spring is in the air 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!!

Inactive Bite continued from page one

angler should or shouldn't jig. For me though, I always start with a pound of some sort. For those of you who aren't familiar with the pound, it is achieved by pounding down the tip of your rod like you would with a hammer but on a much smaller scale. You are trying to get the jig to almost rock, where the head of the jig stays almost still but the plastic or bait bucks around like the lure is trying to swim. This will often get the most inactive fish to commit when done long enough. Sometimes the pound should be interrupted with a rip of the rod tip, or even a dead stop. The pound will lure the fish in, and the fact that something changes will cause the fish to react. One of my favorite ways to jig when fish are inactive however, is to swim the jig. This is basically a much slowed down version of the pound, but there are times when pounding a jig is often too much for the fish and they will scare away from too much action. Let your flasher dictate what kind of jiggling motion to use. And if a fish is coming in, don't change or pause unless the fish has been at your bait for several seconds.

The best advice I can give any angler when they encounter inactive fish is to move, somewhere on that body of water, there is a fish or group of fish that is active and it does you no good to sit on the inactive ones and waste your time. There are times though, that moving to find active fish is not feasible. Such as tournaments where the boundaries are limited, or there are areas of unsafe ice. Give these tactics a try the next time you find yourself on a finicky bite, they may just turn some of those sniffers into biters into biters.

Courtesy Of Matt Johnson Guided Open Water and Ice Fishing

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www.MattJohnsonOutdoors.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 Feb 27th Members Present: 50+ , 2014

I. Secretary Report

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

I. Treasury Report

A) Balance \$ 24,998.87 (Checking \$3614.37 – Savings \$21,384.50)

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

III. Old Business

A) Membership update.

1) Membership stands at 189 – 21 Due. Membership drive: 5 with 1 new member

B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) Madison Lake – Hot spot just off of landing

2) Club Houses are off Clear Lake being stored at Jason Kuester's for now.

3) Clear Lake – Oxygen level very low. Keys for the fish houses are available @ \$2.50

4) KNUJ Baudette was great.

C) Club House and Grounds Update

1) Thanks to Wes Ludewig for plowing the parking areas.

2) Light bulb by sign was replaced by Jason K.

3) Motion by Scott Sparlin and seconded by Jim Liebl to give Orville Rannow \$100 to clean Club House roof of snow. Passed

IV) Other Old Businesses

A) Tony Miller introduced member of his boundary waters trip. Brother Mark said Tony never catches any fish.

V) New Business

A) River Rangers Report

1) Ron Bolduan and his daughter Lori talked to the club about all the projects the group did over the last year.

2) Motion made by Glenn R. and seconded by Jim Liebl to provide up to \$2000 to cover Ron and Lori's expenses. Pass

B) New Letter Ad report (Tony Miler)

1) Ad not paid: B&L Bar, Kral's Appliance, Mankato Tent, Retzlaff's, Don't Doors.

2) We decided to give Mankato Tent a free spot in the newsletter for the help they have given the club.

3) Ad cost: \$30 year for the newsletter and website.

C) Fishing Contest Report

1) Full report at next meeting.

D) Board Meeting Note 1) Total expenses for 2013 were over \$47,000

E) Spirit Lake Trip

1) Got a quote from Lake Crystal Coach. Club has approved funding up to \$500 for a bus. See Tony Miller to sign up.

F) Iowa Great Lakes Fish Club will be coming to next month's meeting.

G) Jason Kuester - Summer boat giveaway project.

1) He talked to Crestliner and Range Boats to purchase boat at \$6500. Suggestions were made to sell tickets and sell at \$20 each. 2nd prize \$1000, 3rd prize \$500, 7 at \$250.

Motion was made by Jim Liebel and seconded by Tom Simonson to have Jason purchase the boat he thinks is the best deal.

H) Club Fishing Contest at Studtmann's Pond - March 8th 12-3 p.m.

1) Contact Mike Studtmann for additional information or question (50-995-3074).

I) Club Trip to Dixon - Thanks from the owners.

J) DNR Fisheries report from Lee Sunmark.

VI Other New Business

A) Food for next meeting provided by Jim Hulke.

B) Petermann fishing contest report. There were 18 participants. Pete presented a check for \$230 to Dave Mecklenburg for the E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship fund.

C) There are some prizes from the fishing contest that have to be handed out.

D) Stoney nominations for vote next week.

VIII) Adjourn @ 9:15



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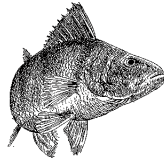


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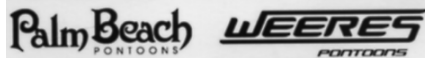
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