



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: newulmsportfish.org

Spring Time Fishing for Walleyes

by fishing guide Charlie Worrath Courtesy of: <http://mnfishingpros.com/>

Springtime walleye fishing is some of the finest walleye fishing of the year. This is due to several reasons. After a long winter and the rigors of spawning, the fish have a huge appetite to fill. Fortunately for us fishermen and fisherwomen, available food sources are in short supply. The baitfish population has been eaten down throughout the winter months, and new food sources haven't developed yet. For instance, the fry of the new year haven't grown to an eatable size. So without a lot of food sources to choose from, your offering is very tempting.

Jig and minnow combo is probably the most popular presentation used at this time of year, by far, and for good reason. With the colder water temps of spring, you don't need a lot of jig action. Sometimes just dragging it along the bottom is all that is needed. The reason is with cold water temps, the fish's metabolism is still in slow mode and they're not moving very fast. I like to give just a bump to hop the jig up just a couple of inches. As the water warms later in the year you can get more aggressive with the action on your jig.

Tipping the jig with a chub or shiner minnow at this time of year is your best choice of baits. Not saying you can't catch fish with other baits or methods, however I believe this gives you the best opportunity for success. Also the jig and minnow combo gives you a great chance of catching any other species of fish the lake has to offer. Adding a few perch, crappies, or nice northern to the catching action is always an added bonus, especially for young ones.

The size of the jig that I use is the

smallest size by weight that I can get away with, which usually is 1/8 oz. It depends on a lot of factors, but mainly the wind will determine the jig weight. The other main thing is tie the jig directly to the line, don't add any jewelry, with the one exception: tying a swivel up a couple feet is all right. It keeps the line from twisting and doesn't seem to affect the jig action. Line size 6 to 8 lbs. work just fine.

In the first couple of weeks look for walleyes around two main areas: chasing shiners, as they are about to spawn, or their spawning beds. If the lake you're on has shiners, and you can locate them, the walleyes will be close by.

Remember, it's spring, and the water is still cold so fish slow. If you think you're going too slow, I would say slow it down some more. The chances are you're going to fast. That is why slip bobbers work well early in the year. The bait just hangs there and gives them the time they need to eat your bait. The bites are usually a light soft touch. Using the rod tip, I like to drop the jig down to the fish to give him time to get the bait all the way in his mouth. This way you don't get as many skinned minnows. On real cold front days, when the bites are short and you can't seem to get a hook into them, try opening the bail. Let them take it like rigging for a count of 5 or more. I have seen that technique really make the



difference at times.

One of the overlooked walleye hot spots in this area is our river systems. They can be extremely good fishing, spring or fall. The best tip I can give you if you haven't fished rivers that much, is fish them just the opposite of lake fishing. For instance, walleyes in a river will lay in a drop waiting for food to be carried down stream to them. Lake walleyes sitting on a shoreline break are usually looking for bait to be blown in from the deeper side. On bends in rivers, fish the outer edge, unlike a lake point where you would fish the inner side. Just think opposite and you'll do just fine. Jig fishing or rigging works well. The weight size will be determined by the current of river, again use the smallest size you can get by with.

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Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Thursday  
before the meeting

## Club Calendar

March 31st .....NUASF Club Meeting  
April 14th .....NUASF Social Night at Club House  
April 28th.....NUASF Club Meeting

May 12th ..... NUASF Social Night at Club House  
May 26th .....NUASF 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 31st. 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: Club Grounds, and the Adopt the river Riverbank Clean Up. This is a great event for our club in preserving the cleanliness of our rivers and city. The event is scheduled for 9am Saturday April 9th at Riverside Park. We will be watching the weather and will send out a email if this date changes... Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, trailers/pickups, and chainsaws. After we get done with the river cleanup we will head out to the club grounds. Thanks in advance for volunteering your time.

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 for allowing us access to Clear Lake again this year if we needed it.

I would also like to recognize Mike and Jeff Studtmann for putting together the 7th 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 22 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!!

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426 North Minnesota Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
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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 February 25th - Members present 45+

### I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Scott Sparlin and seconded by Ron Bolduan to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

### II. Treasury Report

A) Motion made by Glenn Rasmussen and seconded by Scott Sparlin to except the Treasury Report as read. Passed unanimously.

### III. Old Business

A) Membership update.

1) 164 w/ 17 due

B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) MN River – Up river fishing very good walleye, northern and channel cat.

2) MN River – Big Head Asian Carp was caught by the commercial fishermen.

3) Clear Lake – Fishing contest 2 largest fish caught were carp.

C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) Light switch by the entrance needs to be fixed.

2) Tony Miller's wife (Tylean) is fixing the sign at the front entrance.

### IV) Other Old Business

A) None

### V) New Business

A) Ann Vote the Director of the Explorers Program - MN Valley History Learning Center gave the group an over view of what their program is about. They conduct 3 summer camps around the area to over 300 kids ranging from 1st to 6th grade. May return to future meeting to request some funding.

B) Ron Bolduan – He will be continuing the River Ranger program.

C) Fishing Contest Update - Tony Miller

1) Balance for the contest was stated.

2) Jason K. Called from out of town to thank every for the great job.

3) Some prizes were not picked up. Please take a look and deliver if you know the individuals.

D) Willmar Studtmann Club Fishing Contest.

1) March 5th from 12-3PM.

2) Contact Mike Studtmann for information.

E) Dixon Lake Club fishing trip Update.

1) Fun was had by all – 15# northern speared, 22" walleye caught.

F) DNR Fisheries report from Gene Jeseritz.

1) Oxygen levels were good this year.

2) They will be monitoring the big head carp this summer.

3) Clear Lake – There are a lot of fish in the lake but small. Also concerned about the carp population.

### VI) Other New Business

A) Lots of pop left over from ice fishing contest selling for \$0.25 can.

B) Thank you was read from the boy scouts for our donation.


C) Food next meeting – Brats & bring a dish to pass.

D) MN River Watershed Alliance Meeting will be held March 10th @ the New Ulm Event Center.

Motion was made by Ken Kohn and seconded by Jim Hulke to pay for booth at the conference. Pass U

E) New Auburn fish fry this Sat. 2/27.

### VII) Adjourn @ 9:00



### The Bockfest Boys Entertainment Shows

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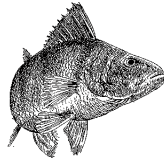


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