



# 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](http://newulmsportfish.org)*

## Early Season Rigging (Lindy Rigging)

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

"Rigging," as of late has become better known, especially in this area, as Lindy Rigging. As most of you who have fished for more than just a few years well know, the use of slip sinkers has been around since the first egg sinker hit the market back in the '40s.

What the Linder brothers really did was, like



many tackle manufacturers have repeatedly done, take a concept a few creative anglers used successfully and refined it a bit. The second stage, of course, is to market it, which is easy if the product is effective.

Lindy's refined sinker exposed in the sixties what a select few anglers knew: rigs catch walleyes. At that time the initial use for most area anglers, however, was pretty much limited to the summer. The jig and minnow still ruled in spring and fall.

Today, I would still say 90% of fisherman use of the rig is from mid summer, when the water warms and the fish go deep, until the water cools. Then the fish go back to their spring haunts and most people change back to jigging.

Contrary to popular belief, though, the rig can actually be used quite effectively from the beginning to the end of open water season.

I personally don't rig much early or late mainly due to the amount of time I spend on the

water. I also like the variety jigging offers for about the first six weeks and after that I switch to rigging for the next seven weeks, and back to jigging the last six weeks. For me it's more about the diversity of fishing techniques as opposed to effectiveness. Jigging the entire season would be like eating pizza for every meal, great at first, but boring for the long run.

Even though I prefer jigging in the early season, rigging actually works very well at this time because the water temps are cold and the walleye's metabolism is still low.

To rig effectively in these conditions, slowly troll the spawning areas or areas where shiners are frequenting a select section of shoreline. I prefer a minnow earlier due to the cold water and because minnows are the main forage at this time of year.

When the water temps get in the mid sixties, I like to switch to leeches first, then to crawlers. When a fish picks up the bait let out line. This means fishing with the bail open and holding the line with your index finger on spinning rods or thumbing the spool on casting reels.

As soon as you feel a bite, which is usually very subtle, let go of line. The key is to let the fish tell you when it has eaten the bait. I start out with a five second count. Then, tighten up the slack and pull back very gently. If it's snug, set the hook. If you swing and miss, on the next bite, go for a ten second count.

Experiment with different counts until you start consistently hooking them. If by chance you can't get hooked regardless of amount of time, or they're picking up the bait and dropping it, try closing the bail and setting the hook as soon as the fish picks up the bait. This might go against the concept of rigging, but if it works use it.

Rigging is effective because it gives walleyes the time to eat the bait and not have

to chase after it. For them it is like having room service. It works well all year because it lets the fish have the time they need to take the



bait. In warmer water the fish will chase, but with warmer water they have more food sources to choose from and are usually not under fed.

Given time to look at your bait, walleyes will usually eat it, but it needs to sit right in their face for more than a couple seconds. As far as bait, you can use any type of live bait fish are feeding on or looking for at that time of year.

When fishing early and the fish are usually shallow, you only need one eighth or a quarter oz. sinker, depending on the wind mostly, or personal feel or type of the bottom.

The leader is most important part. I like to use a clear fluorocarbon line, which is virtually invisible to the fish. They may see your line and sinker, but nothing else until the bait appears. This just one of many small things that just might make the difference between having a good day and having a great day.

Whether you are rigging or jigging, while on the water be safe and courteous and have fun.

## Club Calendar

May 26th .....NUASF Club Meeting

June 9th.....NUASF Social Night at Club House

June 29th.....NUASF Club Meeting

July 14th .....NUASF Social Night at Club House

July 28th .....NUASF Club Meeting

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## From the President .....

By Jason Kuester

I hope everyone had a great Fishing Opener!!!! I'm sure there will be a few stories at the next meeting about the big one that got away. So bring your stories along with your hot fishing spots and share them with your friends at the next meeting!! Your secret hot spots are safe with us!!! If you find yourself without a boat this summer the club has two that are available for our members, remember it is first come first serve.

I have great news!

We will be selling 1,000 Four-wheeler tickets at \$10.00 per ticket in books of 10. Prizes are as follows, 1st Place-Four-wheeler, 2nd Place-\$500.00, 3rd Place-\$500.00, 4th Place-\$500.00 5th Place-\$500.00.

We will be selling 900 Ice Castle tickets at \$20.00 per ticket in books of 10. Prizes are as follows, 1st Place-Ice Castle, 2nd Place-\$1,000.00, 3rd Place-\$500.00, 4th Place-\$250.00 5th Place-\$100.00.

Tickets will hopefully be here by the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like some tickets, please contact Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 rnuw@newulmtel.net or Ken Sutherland 507-276-1534 ken.sutherland@ci.new-ulm.mn.us or myself at 507-381-2041 jr@newulmtel.net

Note: If you take the tickets you will be responsible for selling them or turning them back in at or before the Ice Fishing Contest in February.

It's defiantly summer like weather again and that means the grounds at the club will need to be mowed and trimmed. We are going to have a sign up sheet for mowing, please help us by signing up. Thanks in advance for your help!

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!!

## NUASF Monthly Meeting April 28th, 2016 Members Present: 40+

### I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Scott Waldner and seconded by Jim Hulke to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

### II. Treasury Report

A) Balance - Motion made by Jim Hulke and seconded by Al Rader to except report as read. Passed unanimously

### I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Scott Waldner and seconded by Jim Hulke to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

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426 North Minnesota Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
507-354-4164



## 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).

## NUASF Monthly Meeting Continued from page 2

### II. Treasury Report

A) Balance - Motion made by Jim Hulke and seconded by Al Rader to except report as read.  
Passed unanimously

### III. Old Business

#### A) Membership update

1) 162 w/ 21 due

#### B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) DNR may be stocking Clear Lake Gibbon

2) Sleepy Eye Lake - 10"-12" Crappie.

#### C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) Clean up went well. Thanks to all that help and also thanks to all the 3M volunteers.

2) Jim Hukle said all the lawn mowers are ready to go.

3) A member has some gutter guards may donate to the club.

4) The oldest fish house is not repairable needs to be replaced. Frame is still good.

#### IV) Other Old Business

##### A) None

##### V) New Business

A) Stoney Award presentation will be held next meeting when Mike or a Studtmann family member is present.

B) High Island Association members were present, gave a report of the past years projects. Also presented prizes some of our members won from a drawing they held.

##### C) Tony Miller Report

1) Newsletter Ads - two are due.

2) Total income from the Ice Fishing Contest was announced.

3) 3M Foundation - Received a check. Club member donated hours of community service.

D) Presentation from Allison Gambel - DNR invasive species specialist.

E) Ron Bolduan - River Rangers will be changing their name to "Outreach Program"

1) Ron talked about this past year projects.

2) Motion made by Dave Mecklenburg and seconded by Orv Rannow to commit for Ron's travel expenses.

F) Kari B. - Pro Kinship report of last year's events and this coming years projects. Motion made by Orv Rannow and seconded by John Kuester to give a donation to Pro-Kinship for Kids

G) Kids Fishing Contest date is set - Aug 17th

##### H) Jason Kuester - Ice Contest Prize Update

1) 4-Wheeler was purchased from Dranttel in St Peter.

2) Trailer was purchased from Runnings. Will be used to haul 4-wheeler to spots and will keep the trailer for our own use.

3) Motion was made by Ken Sutherland and seconded by John Hunstad to increase the tickets being sold for the 4-wheeler by 500 to a total of 2000.

I) Scholarship report Dave Mecklenburg - This year's awards will be announced next month. The Mecklenburg family would like to match whatever the club would donate to the Scholarship Fund. This can be done at a later date.

#### VI) Other New Business

A) Thank you was read from Ann Vote MVHLC

B) Thanks to Russ Radenbaugh for all the work he does for the newsletter.

C) Talked about getting a club key chain logo done. Will get a price and then talk.

D) Tony called the people from our annual Iowa trip to see if they would come up here for a tour.

E) Tony is trying to organize a tour of the Belle Plain cleanup site we did years ago.

#### VII) Adjourn @ 8:55

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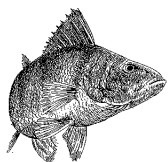
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