



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

The History of Ice Fishing in Minnesota

courtesy of: <http://www.iceshanty.com/> (A great website for stories about ice fishing)

For the avid angler, ice fishing is a way to extend our favorite sport beyond the summer months. Minnesota lakes are frozen over, on average, 10 months out of the year, and if it weren't for ice fishing we'd have to go a long time without fishing. It's bad enough we have to go that long without golfing. Ice fishing in Minnesota is a sub-culture and there is a strong camaraderie among the anglers.

Ice fishing was completely unheard of in Minnesota until the late 1800s. In 1888, Sven Stevenson built a cabin on a hill overlooking Lake Minnewaska. It was a very wet fall and the hill had suffered a few mud slides. The details are sketchy, but it appears after a heavy January snow-fall, Sven's outhouse and a sizable chunk of frozen dirt slid down the hill and out onto Lake Minnewaska - all while Sven was inside doing his business. The friction from all that frozen dirt sliding across the ice created enough heat to open up a small hole in the ice. Amazingly, the outhouse ended up right over the top of it. Sven, of course, wasn't sure what was going on but when things settled down, he stood up, looked through the hole and saw fish swimming below the outhouse. Being a fanatic angler, Sven ran to the cabin, grabbed his fishing pole, ran back to the outhouse and lowered some bait into the hole. It wasn't long before a crowd gathered to see what Sven was up to.

A few days later, other area residents pushed outhouses onto the lake and a small community was born. In the 1800s, most anglers were men. The men found that they enjoyed being "out on the ice away from our nagging wives" as one man wrote in his jour-



nal.

In fact, many ice fishing pioneers built additions onto their outhouses and even put in wood stoves and a week's worth of food so they could enjoy extended periods away from home. This tradition is still practiced today.

Finally spring arrived and the community of outhouses was pulled away by horses (equipped with special ice-gripping horse shoes). Sven's outhouse was not removed in time and plunged through the thinning ice on April 12, 1889. The Minnesota Historical Society attempted to recover the structure in 1975 but, despite weeks of searching with a

one-man submarine, failed.

Ice fishing is different than regular open-water fishing in several ways. The equipment used is probably the largest difference. Ice fishing poles are short so that an angler can (a) get his line through a small hole in the ice, (b) fight a fish and look down the hole simultaneously, (c) fit within the confined spaces of the ice fishing house or shelter.

The use of an ice fishing house or shelter is optional. Many anglers simply make a hole in the ice and sit on an overturned pickle bucket. I've tried this, but with the typical Minnesota wind it gets cold in a hurry. Incidentally, used five-gallon pickle buckets go for about \$5 in Minnesota, the highest price in the nation. Most people notice that every restaurant in Minnesota uses a pickle to garnish your meal - sometimes two pickles. That makes sense since the restaurants derive a huge source of tax-free income selling the empty pickle buckets.

Ice fishing tournaments, and there are a lot of them, do not allow the use of ice fishing houses. The demand for pickle buckets in the towns that host those contests is so huge, local stores actually stock them. These are luxury pickle buckets though, with a cushioned seat

Never operate a heater that generates dangerous fumes inside of a fishing house. Always have adequate ventilation. Keep a fire extinguisher handy.

Things have come a long way since Sven's

Continued on page 2

Club Calendar

January 12thNUASF Social Night at Club House
January 26th.....NUASF Club Meeting
February 9thNUASF Social Night & Prize Meeting
at Club House (5:00 Pm)

February 12thNUASF ICE Fishing Contest
February 16thNUASF Trip to DIXON LAKE
February 23rd.....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 PM
As everyone knows our Clubs Ice Fishing Contest is February 12th. 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 9th. We will be having a special meeting on the 11th at 5:00 pm to organize all of the prizes for the contest. There are 28 people signed up for the Dixon Lake resort trip! We still have room for 10 more.....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!

The History of Ice Fishing in Minnesota continued from page 1

first Minnesota ice fishing house. Today, most have a heat source, television, satellite dish, reclining chairs, bunk beds, rustic dining table and chairs, carpet, paneling, and in a few rare cases, mortgage. The ice house must have the owner's name and phone number clearly displayed on the outside. There may be some other laws regarding ice houses and anglers should check out the latest regulations. I do know that it is illegal to burn down an ice house just to avoid having to get it off the ice in the spring.

It's not too tough to find where the fish are. There are parts of a lake where fish tend to congregate and their human pursuers will congregate directly above them. You can see these little villages out on the ice as you drive past most Minnesota lakes. My advice is to look for these little villages and then go ahead and squeeze into their territory. You may get beer cans thrown at you, but Minnesotans are pretty forgiving over time - especially if you buy them more beer.

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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 Dec 22, 2016 Members Present: 40+

I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded by Mike Deinken to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

II. Treasury Report

A) Balance \$ Motion made by Orv Rannow and seconded by Ken Kohn to except report as read. Passed unanimously

III. Old Business

A) Membership update

1) 156 Members w/ 29 Due

B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) Clear Lake – DNR did a netting (Crappies 5 1/2”-7 1/2” & 9 1/2”-11 1/2”, Walleye 7”-8 1/2” & 18”-19”, Perch are coming back strong) Not safe be going on the ice yet.

2) High Island – 36 5”-7” Walleye on the south shore.

3) Lake of the Woods – Poor luck 9” ice.

4) Red Lake – 1/2 ton truck fell in.

5) Lake Hanska – 3-10” Perch.

C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) 3 missing electric roaster pans, does anyone have them?

2) Tony Miller has some rebates from Menards if anyone is getting something for the club.

IV) Other Old Business

A) None

V) New Business

A) Membership drive winner is Jason Kuester with 3 new member.

1) Jason is going to donate the trip back to the club. Anyone interested should make a bid and all proceeds will go back to the club and be used for kids prizes.

B) Web site update.

1) All newsletters we have are up to date on our site. If you have old newsletters that are not on the site see Tony Miller.

C) Scott Sparlin

1) Article our club had in the Outdoor News he will get framed. Also made copies that we can hand out at our events.

2) New DNR Reginal Fisheries head, Scott Mackeucken, will be available for our January meeting.

3) He will be going to the DNR Round table. Asked if we could cover his mileage and room again this year to represent the club. Motion made by Jim Hulke and seconded by Orv R. to cover his expenses. Pass U

D) Ice Fishing Contest Update

1) Price collection update from Pat Roiger. Check the collection board before going to the accounts.

2) Food License is being worked on. See Tom Simonson if you can help at the food tent.

3) Orv R. will be building a wall to go around the food tent to help keep the wind out.

4) Ticket sales are down.

E) Winter Fish Trip to Dixon

1) Feb 16-19 – We are 3/4 full. \$50 deposit to Jason K., Total cost \$185

F) Food for next meeting – Eric Olson steak night. Bring a dish to pass.

VI) Other New Business

A) Club purchase a new generator from Dranttel. Will sell old generator, give a bid at the next meeting.

B) Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund received a donation thru Dave Mecklenburg son-in-law Corey totaling

C – Received a donation from the Wayne Forbrook Family of \$300 to be use to kids prizes at the contest.

D) Still have some fishing supplies from the Retzlaff estate. See Jim Hulke.

VII) Adjourn @ 8:22

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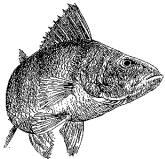

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