



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.

Crappie Ice Fishing Tips and Techniques

Courtesy of: <http://www.ice-fishing-source.com/crappie-tips-techniques.asp>

The real **secret** to catching more fish is **knowledge!** The more you know, the more fish you'll catch. These Crappie ice fishing tips and techniques are proven winners.

Crappie are undoubtedly one of the most sought after ice fishing species. They're fun to catch and great eating.

If you want to catch more Crappie the two most important keys are **location** and **presentation**. You could have the most appealing bait in the world but if there aren't any fish around it's going to be a looong day. And, not catching a thing while everyone else around you is catching fish can be really frustrating. What you present to the fish is just as important as finding them.

The information found here is best used along with some investigative work done by you. Finding out what the Department of Natural Resources says about a lake and talking to local anglers, especially at the bait shop, can save you a ton of time finding the fish and knowing what they're biting on.

Crappie can be ice fished at any hour of the day or night but changing light conditions in the morning and evening usually triggers more activity and feeding. Many Crappie fisherman, including me, prefer to fish for Crappie from an hour before sundown till a couple hours after dark.

Crappie Ice Fishing Location

Winter gives ice fisherman an advantage for catching Crappie over summer fishing since in the summer they're more spread out and more difficult to find. In the winter they tend to school up more often and suspend over deep water.

In early winter Crappie can be found in the same places they were just prior to ice up. Look for them in shallow weeds and just off the weed line. Especially when the weeds are combined with shoreline breaks and points. Click here to learn about fish attracting lake structure.

By mid winter the Crappie will have moved off the structure, usually to the nearest deep basin. Start by looking for them suspended in the basin near the structure and at the same depth of the structure. Crappie follow food so as the zooplankton and minnows move, so do the Crappie.

Late winter they'll begin to move in closer to the bays and weed lines. Crappie spawn in shallow, dark bottom bays after the ice is out. You'll find them moving closer to these spawning areas as spring approaches.

Before we switch gears and talk about presentation, remember locating Crappie is only half the battle. Don't just drill one hole. Instead drill several holes and find the fish.

Using modern electronics can also help you find fish faster. Depth, fish and structure can all be seen using a flasher (Vexilar or Marcum).

Crappie Ice Fishing Presentation

OK, you've found the Crappie, now let's look at some effective techniques to get them on the ice!

The most effective ice fishing presentation is jigging. Jigging is basically raising your rod tip about a foot, then dropping it back down to its starting position.

A very effective method is to raise and drop the tip, wait 5-10 seconds and repeat the raise/drop.

Another jigging technique made popular by the pro ice fisherman Dave Genz is pounding the jig. Pounding a jig is basically jigging your rod tip up and down just an inch or two very quickly.

If you're not using a flasher and have no idea what depth the fish are at, start by jigging near the bottom. If you don't find fish, come up a foot or two. Continue the process until you either find fish or reach the ice with your lure.

Now that you've got the hang of jigging, let's look at the lure/bait you're using. There are several jigs that have proved effective over time.

Be willing to experiment with any of the jigs pictured below.

Vertical Jigs with a minnow are usually used more during changing light conditions and at night.

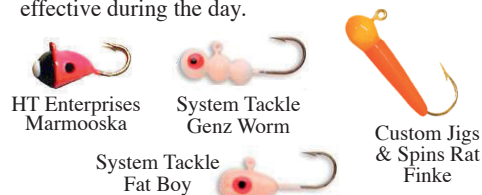


Custom Jigs & Spins Demon

Northland Tackle Doodle Bug

Northland Tackle Eye-Dropper

Horizontal Jigs with grubs are usually more effective during the day.



HT Enterprises Marmoska

System Tackle Genz Worm

Custom Jigs & Spins Rat Finke

Using live bait is important to trigger a bite. Toss your jig with either a live minnow, minnow head, or a grub. Dave Genz, the ice fishing master, uses grubs during the day and minnows in low light conditions.

In most places while ice fishing you're allowed more than one rod. I usually set up a second rod with a float (bobber) and a lively minnow on a hook or a jig while ice fishing for Crappie.

Finally, Crappie are also called Paper Mouths for a reason. Their mouth rips pretty easily so when you get a bite don't set the hook too hard.

Hopefully you've found something new to try in these Crappie ice fishing tips and techniques that will help you ice more fish.

What most people consider luck is usually a combination of preparation and practice so get out there and enjoy the practice!

Club Calendar

March 9th NUASF Social Night at Club House
March 11th 8th Annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial
Ice Fishing Contest
March 30th NUASF Club Meeting

April 13th NUASF Social Night at Club House
April 27th NUASF Club Meeting
May 11th NUASF Social Night at Club House
May 25th 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 will be scheduled for one Saturday in April at Riverside Park. We will be watching the weather and will send out a email before the date...** 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 upcoming events during the year. We will also talk about fundraising ideas for 2017. As everyone knows the club wants to remain very active in the community. If you can't make the next meeting please email or call me with your ideas....

I would also like to recognize the Studtmann family for putting together the 8th annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing contest at Studtmann Pond. We didn't have much ice but everyone had a great time!! It was a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family. We had around 25 members at 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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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).

I. Secretary Report

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

II. Treasury Report

A. Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded by Orv Rannow to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

A. Membership update

1. 160 Members w/ 37 Due

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1. None

C. Club House and Grounds Update.

1. Land purchase: We will be having a meeting with the Nilson's next month.

2. Jeff Nielson is working with the county on water control above the club house.

IV. Other Old Business

A. Scott Sparlin is going to get a curriculum together on our project "Let's go Fishing" & present it to the City of New Ulm.

V. New Business

A. Suggestion was made we present plaques to all our major contributors for their support of our ice fishing contest. Motion made by Pat Roiger and seconded by Jim Hulke to do so. Passed U.

C. Tony Miller has resigned from his Treasury position. If anyone is interested in filling his spot please step forward. Jen Kuester has volunteered to temporarily fill the position of Treasurer till we are able to find a replacement. Yearend tax issues will be handled by accounted Ken Vonderharr. Motion was made by Dave Mecklenberg and seconded by Scott Sparlin to except Jen Kuester as Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

E. The lost Dog & Fox parking lot is all tore up from our contest. Jason Kuester will handle the fixup.

G. The Board of Directors approved the following funding for the upcoming year.

Motion was made by Scott Sparlin and seconded by Jim Libel to except the board's recommendations. Pass U

H. A report was made by our friend from High Island Lake.

I. Report was present from Ron Bouldan about the Riverside Park Learning Center.

J. Ice Fishing Contest report

1. Great day about 600 on the ice.

K. Studtmann Club Ice Fishing Contest at Studtmann Pond will be held 3/11 starts at Noon even if ice is bad.

VI. Other New Business

A. Dixon Lake club trip was great as always.

B. Food next meeting. Brats – bring a dish to pass

VII. Adjourn @ 9:07PM

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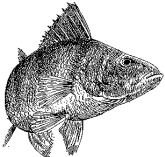

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