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# 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).

## Walleyes of the October Moon

By Tom Carpenter, courtesy of <http://www.gameandfishmag.com/fishing/>

That so-called “hunter’s moon” doesn’t affect just wildlife. Here’s how to use it to improve your fishing for walleyes. It wasn’t my typical October outing.

Instead of gearing up with tree stands and archery gear, or throwing a shotgun and bird dog into the truck, I was towing a boat. There was a bird dog along, but Rascal, the little Brittany, looked somewhat perplexed as we glided across the lake into the now quickly descending autumn sun.

We were on the hunt, but for something different than the usual October sporting fare. Conditions were prime for fishing hard-feeding walleyes — a steady and mild weather pattern, water temperatures in the 50s ... and a moon nearing full.

### WHY FISH OCTOBER’S MOON

Don’t winterize and store the boat until you’ve given October’s full-moon walleyes a go. This year, the full moon falls on October 5. Given clear skies for two to three days on each side of that date, the moon will shine bright enough to put hungry fall walleyes on the hunt for nighttime forage. And that makes for good fishing.

Look for mild conditions, with waters that are calm to carrying just a little chop. Early October usually sees plenty of evenings like those. Time your trip to be fishing your favorite walleye hole for the last hour of daylight and the first few hours spanning nightfall and moonrise.

A moon that’s full or nearly full offers fine walleye fishing in autumn, and the reasons are simple: The fish are hungry, and moonlight provides ideal conditions for the fish to hunt by.

In October, our waters have cooled off.

Temperatures match about what they are in late May or early June — usually somewhere in the 50s and, of course, dropping. Those conditions will bring baitfish shallow, looking for warmer environs, with marble-eyes following to hunt their forage in the moonlit waters.

### LAKE LOCATIONS AND STRATEGIES

In lakes, go to work with these kinds of approaches to boat some October moon walleyes.

Troll minnow baits around shallow-topped reefs. Start with lures that dive to 10 to 12 feet in the final daylight and following dusk. Then move to shallow-running lures (3 to 6 feet) as the moon rises. If your main boat motor can work slowly and quietly enough — 1 to 2 mph — you should be in good shape. If necessary, though, use a small kicker motor to tone down your speed. Either way, you’ll need to run a long line, and planers are a good idea. As an option, and if your electric trolling motor is powerful enough, use that to run your lures.

Cast crankbaits around the same reefs once darkness has fallen and the moon is up. In extremely clear or shallow water, casting can be an ideal approach because you avoid a running motor that can spook fish. Crayfish imitators are good choices, but minnow baits that “match the hatch” for your lake (emerald shiner, yellow perch and silvery sucker imitations all come to mind) are effective too. Autumn walleyes are focusing on fish to fill their bellies, and the ’eyes are quick to hit what they are primed to be feeding on.

Slip-bobber a rocky or gravelly point, reef or bar. This is a low-impact, high-efficiency approach if you slowly inch along

and probe the area. Run your baits at about the height of the reef top, and work the edges and drops. Forgo the crawlers and leeches you used all summer, and opt instead for meaty shiners or suckers in the 3- to 5-inch range as bait.

From shore, look for a rocky or gravelly north shoreline that catches the daytime sunshine and may hold more baitfish. Use a simple bobber rig with those 3- to 5-inch shiners or suckers as bait. Alternatively, just try your local fishing dock or any rocky shoreline in the moonlight too; walleyes will come in to hunt the local baitfish and young-of-the-year panfish.

### RIVER LOCATIONS AND STRATEGIES

On rivers, be careful while boating and know the stretch of water you plan to fish. Rivers carry more potential hazards — logjams, ultra-shallow areas, rocky runs — than lakes. And in moving water, your fishing approach will vary. River walleyes just behave differently. Put these techniques to work.

Work a wing dam by anchoring upstream of it instead of downstream. Cast a jig-and-twister or minnow-tipped jig on top of the dam, and then bounce the bait slowly across the top and down the front of the structure, working it back toward your boat and into the current flow. The current will hold your bait there. It is more standard procedure to fish the pool behind a wing dam, to be sure. But active fish are more likely to be on top or in front of the current-diverting structure. You can also work the edges of points and the outsides of bends in the same fashion.

*Walleyes...continued on page 3*

The Official Publication of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen  
P.O. Box, 294 • New Ulm, Minnesota 56073




## Club Calendar

September 28th ..... NUASF Club Meeting  
October 12th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House  
October 26th..... NUASF Club Meeting  
November 9th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House

November 30th..... NUASF Club Meeting  
December 14th ..... NUASF Social Night at Club House  
December 21st ..... NUASF Club Meeting



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## From the President.....

By Jason Kuester

First I would like to Thank everyone that showed up at **Peterman’s Fall Fishing Contest**. It was on the Minnesota River just off of the bottom road by Hwy 4. Everyone had great time fishing and grilling down by the Minnesota River. All proceeds from the event go to the EE Mecklenburg Scholarship. **Thanks for the good time Pete!!!**

It is time to sell tickets... We need everyone to do their part and sell raffle tickets for the 2018 Ice Castle Ice House!!! You can pick up your tickets the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like some tickets, please contact Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 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 on February 11, 2018.**

Todd and Karen from the Dixon Lake Resort are very excited to have our club back at their resort this year. They have also donated a four person fishing trip as one of our prizes for the fishing contest we will have in February. **The date for the trip is February 15th**. I need to have conformation and your \$50.00 down payment to them after the December’s meeting. If you are interested in going along on this trip please contact me at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net. The total for the trip is \$140.00 per person for three nights, or \$200.00 per person food included. Todd and Karen also said there would be no charge for the angling and spearing houses this year. They have room for 24 people in their angling houses and about 25 spearing houses available. This is first come first serve, so if you need an ice house let me know. *If you are unable to attend the meeting and need to pay your \$50.00 down payment send it to Jason Kuester 56554-446th Street New Ulm, MN 56073.*

Fall 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 and ideas. If you know someone that likes to fish or just wants to be a part of a great club, bring them along to a meeting. 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  
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**Hook, Line,  
and Sinker**

*The Hook Line and Sinker* is published monthly by Joyce Reese graphic design for 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 507-381-2041; Vice-President - Gary Sprenger 507-359-9358; Secretary - Ross Nelson 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Jen Kuester 507-766-0143; Board Members: Mike Buechner 507-354-2739, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Mike Studtmann 507-995-3074.

## NUASF Monthly Meeting August 31, 2017

- Treasurers report read by Jen. Numerous details. Well received.
- Possible IRS fine, Tony did not file appropriately. Has been an issue for last couple years.
- Written letter to IRS may waive fine.
- Discussion about hiring an accountant, \$100 per hour. Would be money well spent.
- 19 members due.
- New mower was purchased and 2 were sold at \$300.
- Canoe access will become ours. We should create a long term Memo of Understanding. With DNR.
- We will need to create some signage.
- Kids fishing contest went well. Thanks to the members who participated.
- Food for next meeting is open at this point.

*Walleyes...continued from page 1*

Bounce a slip-sinker rig along current seams. Concentrate on places such as an outside bend, in the eddy on the inside of a bend, or along the slower edges of a fast run. These are my favorite spots on smaller rivers. Active fish will hold just off the edge of the main current, ready to nail any food that blunders past.

Cast minnow baits and crayfish-imitating crankbaits. Work these offerings onto ledges, shelves, sandbars and rockpiles, and into other calm-water areas where minnows like to congregate in small areas out of the main flow. Don’t ignore the possibility of using a good old-fashioned in-line spinner as your bait, or even a smaller sized bass-style blade spinner. Walleyes will be attracted to blade flash in the moonlight.

From shore, head to a bend, point, eddy or other area where the current washes past nearby, but calm or shallow water eddies off. Casting minnow baits is always a lot of fun, but going slower and slip-sinking a crawler will work as well, and this will enable you to pick up a bonus catfish too. Predatory channel cats feed hard in autumn, just as walleyes do.

### CONCLUSION

Despite not being on shore looking for birds, Rascal seemed to enjoy her boat ride well enough. But the fishing action was slow to start, as I worked crayfish-imitating crank-baits over a series of shallow reefs.

When what had remained of the sun’s glow faded from the western horizon and the moon began arcing up into the eastern sky, we headed over to a rocky point that tapered out from a small island. There was no “walleye chop” to speak of, just a feather of a breeze that kept the boat moving as it drifted along a 4- to 10-foot breakline.

A presentation changeup to a good-sized, fat shiner minnow dangled below a lighted slip-bobber finally did the trick. I think it was the act of having a bait in the water all the time, and covering water slowly but surely, that helped find the fish and convince them to hit.

Over the course of the next hour, four girthy and golden-flanked walleyes came to the net. Those autumn marble-eyes looked mighty handsome there in the moonlight — and in the frying pan the next night!

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