

DESIGN HOME CENTER
Building Materials - Idea Showroom

Lumber • Hardware • Doors • Windows
Carpet & Flooring • Kitchen & Bath Cabinetry
Professional Installation • Gas Fireplaces
Pole Buildings • Paint & Decorating

Hwy 14 West **233-8440** New Ulm

Serving Southern Minnesota Since 1978

ZINNIEL electric

Your Electrical Connection to the Future

- Residential • Farm/Ag • Commercial
- Industrial • Solar PV

Sleepy Eye and Morgan locations
Serving all of Southern MN
Call Toll-Free 1-800-817-7930
www.zinnielectric.com

SCHEELS



Hook, Line, and Sinker

January
2018
Volume 31
Issue 1

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

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

ICE SPEARING HISTORY

Courtesy of mndarkhouse.org

Humans have fished for as long as their activities can be traced. Fishing was first done out of need to survive. Only much later did fishing become a sport or hobby, something to be done to relax and enjoy the out-of-doors. Nevertheless, most fishing is still done on a subsistence or commercial basis to supply needed foodstuffs.

Humans have fished for centuries, and continue to fish, using a wide variety of techniques. Some of the first fishing "tools" included spears, harpoons, blow-pipes, clubs, traps, nets and the most common technique, and most popular with today's sport anglers is, of course, the hook and line.

Winter spear fishing requires chisels, augers and saws of various kinds to cut through the ice that can be more than three feet thick. Fish decoys and jigging sticks or reels hung from the roof of the shanty are also part of the spear fisherman's toolbox. Spearing decoys, or fish decoys as they are called by collectors, are the main lures used to try to entice fish to the ice hole, although live suckers, shiny spoons and even tin cans have been used with success.

The history of spearing decoys dates back to primitive tribes of humans or Eskimos and ancient examples of fish decoys carved from bone or tusks have been found. Spear fishing is one of the oldest forms of fishing done by man, predating angling, especially angling as a sport. Native Americans were spearing fish through the ice long before Europeans reached North America. It is difficult however to pin down the precise origin or dark house spearing. Spear fishing in general was thought to have been independently introduced in many places around the world; no single location can be credited with its introduction. It could have begun in northern Asia, North America, or northern Europe.

The modern history of fish decoys starts in the early 19th century and continues to the present day. Quite a bit of knowledge has been gained about the history of fish decoys made from the early twentieth century to the present day. Colorful stories are told of spear fishermen who carved these examples of early American folk-art, gathered food with them, or traded their cre-

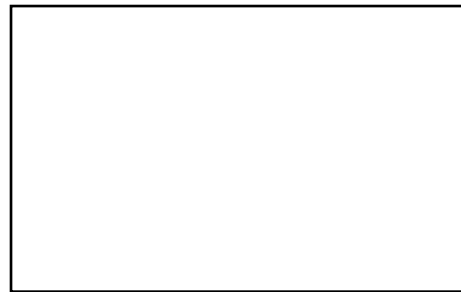
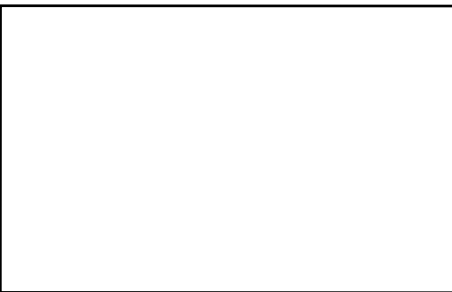
ations for alcoholic spirits. There was a big surge in the amount of spear fishermen in the late 1920's and early 1930's. This was probably due to the great depression and a need to forage for food in the harsh winters by any means necessary. Many of the most highly prized collectible fish decoys came from this time period. If you would like to expand your knowledge of the history of winter spear fishing and or the history of fish decoy and spear making, please check out our suggested reading link at the bottom of this page.

A special kind of recreational spear fishing exists in North America today; where the fisherman sits in a dark house on a frozen lake or river waiting for a fish to be attracted into range by a decoy hanging several feet below the surface of the ice in the clear water below.

Dark house spearing is as much a tradition as it is a sport for those who participate. Dark houses, spears, decoys, techniques and favorite fishing spots are passed along to younger generations. There is something different about spearers; they are less social than anglers and more secretive about their success or lack thereof. Dark house spearing is usually a one-person activity. Spearing is simply the spearer, his own thoughts, and the activity going on in the lake below.

Clearly, dark house spearing, as we know it today evolved from what was passed on to the European settlers by Native Americans. How through-the-ice spearing got to North America – whether it evolved or was dispersed from Asia – remains unresolved. What is known, however, is that given the ideal natural conditions for ice fishing in the Great Lakes, it probably wasn't long after the last glacial period, about 10,000 years ago, that the first fish was speared through the ice. Today, nowhere outside of Minnesota, are there as many people who enjoy the sport of spear fishing.

"Run your decoys high, keep your spear on your shoulder and your foot off the rope."
~ author unknown



Retzlaff's ACE Hardware
Alumacraft Boats
Johnson and Evinrude Outboards
Suzuki Outboards
Shoreland'r Trailers
Boat Accessories and Fishing Tackle
21 N. Minnesota Downtown New Ulm
507-354-8851

Ground Zero
Est. 1999

Scan for more info

SAFETY • SERVICE • SATISFACTION

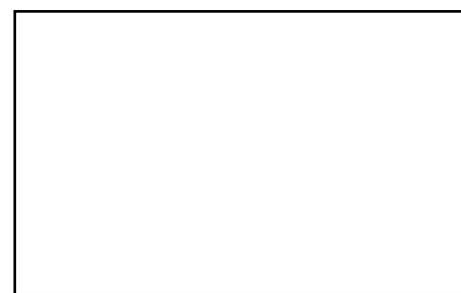
Excavating

- Gravel Hauling
- Site Work
- Sewer and Water Services
- Skid Loader Work
- Basement, Footings and Hog Pits

Paving

- Crack Repair
- Asphalt Seal Coating
- Parking Lot Striping
- Blacktop Patching
- New Parking Lot and Driveway Construction

Just Call Jason! **507-354-3973**
308 4th Street • Courtland, MN 56021
www.groundzeromidwest.com
We have two gravel pits in the Courtland area.



PRINTWEAR GRAPHICS

- EMBROIDERY • AD SPECIALTIES
- SCREEN PRINTING • SIGNS

507-354-6009 800-584-9457
1602 S. BROADWAY NEW ULM, MN 56073

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Jeff Amundson
Financial Associate
108 So. Minnesota
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone 507-354-4413 Fax 507-354-3284
"Connecting faith & finances for good"

PUHLMANN LUMBER & DESIGN
Family Owned Since 1926
(507) 354-4914
301 1ST S. ST.
NEW ULM, MN

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

Hook, Line, and Sinker

Club Calendar

January 11th NUASF Social Night at Club House
January 25th NUASF Club Meeting
February 8th NUASF Social Night/IFC Prize Meeting at Club House

February 11th NUASF Ice Fishing Contest at Clear Lake
February 15th NUASF Ice Fishing Trip to Dixon Lake
February 22nd NUASF Club Meeting

Runnings FARM & FLEET

FARM • HARDWARE • AUTO • TOOLS
LAWN & GARDEN • PAINT • CLOTHING
2107 North Garden, New Ulm 359-2988

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Bank of America Corporation

Neal Haaland 51A Broadway N Fl 1
Vice President Fargo, ND 58102
Senior Financial Advisor neal_haaland@ml.com
Tel. 701.241.1253
866.241.0885
Fax 701.205.4274
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Hoffman Construction Gravel – Excavation – Dozer Work

2231 South Broadway • New Ulm
507-359-4444

Place
your ad
Here

ORV RANNOV FLOOR CARE SERVICES

2201 North Broadway, Lot141
New Ulm MN • Phone 507-354-5402
Cell Phone 507-276-2001

Place
your ad
Here

Imperial Porta-Palace

Portable restrooms for job sites, festivals, parks,
street dances, cabins or anywhere a restroom is
needed. We also offer hand wash stations with
fresh water, soap and paper towels.

The cleanest restrooms in the business.

Chuck and Lynda
Courtland, MN 56021
Office 800-289-6428
Licensed, bonded and insured. MPCA LIC. #2535

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 11th. 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 8th.
We will be having a special meeting on the 8th at 5:00 pm to organize all of the prizes for the contest.

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.** We have 36 people signed up for this trip. We still have a few spots open if you are interested in going along on this trip please contact me ASAP 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.**

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!

Page 2

Auto Value PARTS STORES

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



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by Master Graphics 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 December 21st, 2017 Members Present: 35

I. Secretary Report - Report excepted as read.

II. Treasury Report - Report excepted as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership update 155 Members w/ 27 Due

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1. DNR will be placing over 200 Northern into Clear Lake, also catching some crappies and sunnies.
2. Lake Hanska – Association Meeting was held. DNR would like to do a lake kill again. Club had a discussion about the merits of doing another kill or if we should just let nature take its course.
3. Dixon Lake & Winni – 8”-14” of ice. Fishing has been very good.
4. Leech – Walker Bay has 12” of ice.

C. Club House and Grounds Update.

1. Driveway was repaired by Ground Zero. Thank You!
2. Tom Simonson will replace light bulb by front entrants.

IV. New Business

A. Membership drive winner. No one had more than 3 new members.

B. Ice Fishing Contest

1. Keith Rolloff has created a prize collection list for the north and south sides of New Ulm.
2. Motion was made by Ken Kohn and seconded by Ken Sutherland to do an ad with KNUJ
3. Ticket sales are going well. If you need more see Ken Sutherland.

B. Winter Club Ice Fishing Trip Dixon Lake. Feb. 15-18th. Deposit \$50 to Jason K. if you would like to go.

C. Food Next Meeting – Eric Olson will be here his steaks! Dish to pass.

D. Secretary position still open. Mike Studtmann, Jeff Nielsen, Nick Forbrook and Ross Nelson volunteered to share duties with Mike being the main elected official. Vote passed.

VII. Adjourn @ 8:55 PM



These were caught
in a little lake...
U-wish-u-new 😊

Page 3

Fishing & Hunting Outfitters



Mr. K

Mr. O

Mr. D

Eric Olson
Lake Diefenbaker
Saskatchewan, Canada



Booking 406-395-4515
Camp 306-773-7877 (June & July)

Eric Olson
Box 23, Havre, MT 59501

The Bockfest Boys Entertainment Shows

“45 years in the business of
music entertainment”

An Upper Midwest original Hotdish of music with crowd engaging
originals, ethnic music and popular music from the last 60 years.
Scott Sparlin, agent. P.O. Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073
507-276-2080 e-mail sesparlin@gmail.com

American Surplus
& Manufacturing
Home of the Original
Ice Castle Fish House
RV
Montevideo, MN
320-269-5428



You can camp in a Fish House,



Gary Sprenger Construction

Light Carpentry • Drywall Taping & Texturing
Specializing in Drywall Repair

Gary Sprenger, Owner
New Ulm, MN 56073 • Phone 507-359-9358

MANKATO TENT & AWNING

www.mankatotent.com
Cell: 507-317-7379 Work: 507-645-5115
E-mail: jesse@mankatotent.com Fax: 507-625-5111

Jesse Spiess, Manager
1021 Range Street • Mankato, MN 56002 • Div. TTF Industries

M & B PROP SHOP

MANKATO
507. 546. 3377
NEW ULM
507. 276 . 6091

218 NORTH PAYNE NEW ULM MN 56073



Just 5 miles from Lake
Winnibigosh's Third River access.
Dixon Lake offers clean, cozy cabins
with A/C and cable TV.
Dixon Lake and Winnie have great
fishing: crappies, sunnies, walleye,
large mouth bass & northern.
Bar and Restaurant.
Great family resort.

www.dixonlakeresort.com Open year around. ATV trail.
dixonlakeresort@gmail.com Hunting: bear, grouse,
or just give us a call ducks, geese & deer.
1-218-659-1612 Ice fishing and spearing.

NUASF Members. . .

stop in at the B&L BAR for a
free bottle of Schell's Original or
Grain Belt Premium or Premium
Light

B & L BAR
15 North Minnesota Street

Offer good once a month on the date of the
NUASF monthly meeting. Mention this ad for a
free beer and always practice safe "drishing".