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Hook, Line, and Sinker

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Gearing up for Hard Water

by Kevin Dahlke Courtesy of: myfishingpals.com

Many anglers don't look forward to when their open water season is coming to an end. This means that they need to put all of their fishing gear away for a number of months, and also getting the boat winterized and getting that ready for the long winter season ahead.

For those anglers that hang up their fishing when the water turns hard, they are the ones that are missing out on some of the best times to be on the water hard or soft. Hard water fishing in my eyes is much easier to get ready for as the equipment is more compact and easier to travel with.

Hard water fishing is much more exhilarating as the physical work that is involved is much more rewarding when fish location is achieved. The solitude of the frozen waters and the coolness of the cool crisp days really get an anglers blood pumping once the hard water season comes around.

The trips that are enjoyed the most are the ones that the ice is not as easy to get to as the adventure getting there is half of the fun. Dragging the house or sled full of gear through the fresh snow and woods is something that all anglers should experience at least once. Many anglers think that the weather is too cold but dressing in layers offsets that cold feeling, but one gets use to it the more that you go.

Getting up at the crack of dawn and stepping out into the frigid cool air, really gives the lungs a shock, but a good shock at that. The numbing of the fingers while drilling those holes through the ice makes most folks look and think that we may be a little strange. But as we enjoy our times out on the hard water, while others mock, there aren't any other times to be on the water compared to the fishing of the hard water season.

I find that the hard water fishing allows me to have minimal equipment that I am able to carry all of it in a small sled. Equipment consists of an Auger, Skimmer, Flasher, Rods/Reels and some tackle pending the species you are seeking. I am able to keep all of my gear in the sled in the back of the truck, so that I am able to stop and fish at any time.

To get the full enjoyment of being out in the cold on the ice your clothing is one of the most important pieces of equipment. There are getting to be more and more companies coming out with ice fishing clothing that it is making it easier to stay on the ice much longer. There is a company that has come out with what they call Arctic Armor and is produced by "IDI Gear". There is a built in feature

that if you were to fall through the ice, this suit will keep you afloat to allow you to get yourself out of the frigid water. I am looking at this suit and plan on purchasing this as our ice here in New England can be very unpredictable early and late in the season.

As for equipment in the auger stage, power or hand, the most important thing is to make sure that you are using sharp blades. Sharp blades will cut the ice so much easier and will be easier on the motor as well as your arms for the hand version. If the blades are not sharp it will take longer to cut the ice and you will have to work so much harder to get the holes drilled. Blades are inexpensive and pending on how much you use them, they should last you a season or more.

For the electronics a vital component is the battery and should be checked to see the condition and age of it. If it doesn't seem to be holding a good charge, then it is time to replace it. If the battery isn't functioning to what it is suppose to be doing, this will in turn affect the signal that the flasher is trying to get. There is nothing worse then being on the ice and the battery starts acting up as this could really put a damper on your day on the ice.

For rod/reel equipment the line is a vital component that should be replaced before the ice season even starts. Ice will do a lot of damage to the fishing line and if your reels still have last year's line on them, make sure to change that out. A good lubing of the reels is always a good maintenance thing to do as the cold temperatures make the reels fish differently compared to the warm summer days.

These are a few of the key items that should always be looked at before the hard water season gets here. Ice fishing is not that complex of a sport and with a little hard work, good electronics and some determination to find fish; this can turn out to be the best time on the lake. I will never say that ice fishing is easy but there are days that you only have to drill a few holes and that is all that is needed. But then there are the other days when 60 holes are needed to locate fish.

This is where the determination comes into play and if you really want to get the fullest experience, you need to just get out there. Once you have been bitten by the ice fishing bug, there is no other season that compares to sitting out there on the hard water. When we get to this time of year, I know that I get very anxious for the upcoming hard water and you should be to.

Club Calendar

November 29th.....NUASF Club Meeting
December 13th NUASF Social Night at Club House
December 20th (Note: Date Change) NUASF Club Meeting
January 17th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House
January 31st NUASF Club Meeting

February 8thNUASF prize meeting at Club House
February 10thNUASF Ice Fishing Contest Clear Lake
February 14th NUASF trip to Dixon Lake Resort
November 29th..... NUASF Club Meeting

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From the President.....

By Jason Kuester

We will be holding elections at this meeting. We are asking that everyone attend this meeting to make your vote count. The term is up for (Wymann F Board Member), and (Mike B Board Member). If you would like to run for these positions please bring it up at the next meeting, or call me at 507-381-2041 or email at jr@newulmtel.net I called everyone that is up for election and they plan on continuing to run.

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 14th.** 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.*

It is time to start thinking of the Ice Fishing Contest. The date for the contest is going to be February 10th 2019. We are asking that each member please try to sell at least one book of tickets. You will find one book of tickets in this month's newsletter. If you are unable to sell your tickets please send them back, bring them to a meeting, or drop them off at the Ice Fishing Contest. This event is our largest fund raiser for the club. Additional tickets are always available at each meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson at 507-766-7076, Ken Sutherland 507-276-1534 or myself at 507-381-2041.

Fall is here (maybe winter) 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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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 - Mike Studtmann 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Jen Kuester 507-766-0143; Board Members: Mike Buechner 507-354-2739, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Wes Ludewig 507-276-6092.

NUASF Monthly Meeting October 25, 2018 Members Present: 27 + 2 guests

I. Secretary Report - Approved as read.

II. Treasury Report - Approved as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership: 146 Members, 15 Due

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Devils Lake was quiet. Lake was turning over.
- River, 4 species caught.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Tony mowed today by himself. Has to rake some of the leaves yet. Tony asked if we want to have mower serviced at Runnings yet this fall. Group suggested to wait until spring.
- Orv ask if there were any leaves up on the roof?

D. Other Old Business: None

IV. New Business

. Ice Castle - Ice House

- Tickets available for both
- KNUJ Farm City Day – Nov 9th @ 6am. Squeaky to get the house in.
- Lake Hanska Assoc. Annual Meeting Nov?
 1. Motion made and second (Orv Rannow & Ross Nelson) to donate to them.
- Parade of Lights Nov 23rd.
- Posters next month.

A. Minnesota River Congress

- Nov 8th @ Turner Hall 4:30-9pm.
 1. Motion made and 2nd (Dave Mecklenberg & Jim Hulke) to donate fee for Sparlin to attend.

B. Club Ice Fishing Contest

- Posters/ Tix will be available at November meeting. (Make sure to update logo for Bic)
- Prize collection. Need a coordinator.
- Sponsors and Donations for event
- Food License/ Food Committee (Tom S.)

C. Winter Fishing Trip – Dixon Lake

- February 14th – 17th, 2019
- \$140 for cabin, \$200 total w/ food, \$50 deposit to Jason.
- First come, first serve on the cabins.

D. Other New Business:

- Sleepy Eye Sportsman Club, donating to them.
- Ken S – Board member up for election next month (Mike B)?
- Ken S – Next month will be last month of membership coordinator. Need a new coordinator.
- Jim H has stuff from auction, make offer and proceeds donated to kids fishing contest.
- Ron L – Aeration meeting up in Hutch. Change is permit is online or via computer. Proof that ads are in the paper. Thanks to Kenny, Squeaky and John H for doing the maintenance on the aeration system.

V. Food for next meeting - Jason will do Turkey. Bring a side dish to pass.

VI. Meeting Adjourn @ 8:15 PM

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