



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held November 17, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library with 14 members present.

Even though the November weather had been much colder than normal, there were quite a few fishing reports. The last two fall seasons have been about the worst ever for decent catches so it seems we were due for more typical fall fishing.

John Bales and myself had traveled to western New York to fish the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie meeting up with Jim Mason and Barry Zorzanello. This area has some big schools of big smallmouth that would rival the catches of the Detroit River/Lake Erie areas. Weather and water conditions prevented more than several hours of quality fishing time (6-8 ft waves) and a couple of days were spent on other bodies of water. As a result we didn't get to experience the full potential of this area of Lake Erie, but after seeing the structure situations we could understand why this is a major smallmouth fishery. We did catch some nice largemouth in the upper Niagara River (a few miles above the Falls) and Lake Cassadaga just south of Dunkirk provided a couple of nice smallmouth in the 4-5 lbs. category for John and a couple of nice muskies for Jim and Barry.

At the same time, there were several Spoonpluggers fishing the Detroit River/Lake Erie Western Basin and they were experiencing the same problems with big waves as we were. Shawn Nicodemus was able to boat at least one smallmouth over 5.5 lbs.

David Erdly rolled into the meeting. He now resides in the Louisiana coastal area working on ships servicing the oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. He has a

Captains License for some of the smaller boats and a Mates license on the big ships and hopes to receive a Captains License one day. He has been fishing some big water in the Gulf and recently had his family down from Indiana to experience some fishing on the Gulf. On their second day out they caught over 100 speckled sea trout and well as white trout along with some nice redbfish in the 8-10 lbs. range.

The highlight was his mother catching a 6 ft. black-tip shark that kept her busy for a long time until they finally cut the line.

Many other members have fishing as well as catching. Denny reported that the fish have nearly all been in deeper water. Dodging duck hunters has been the biggest obstacle to fall fishing. He also reported a 51 inch muskie had just been reported caught on Loon Lake.

Some other organizations got on the Kendallville Library schedule ahead of us on our typical 3rd Monday of the month and the following changes will be made for the first half of 2015:

January 19, 2015 (regular date)

February 2, 2015 (First Monday)

March 9, 2015 (Second Monday)

April 13, 2015 (Second Monday)

May 11, 2015 (Second Monday)

June 8, 2015 (Second Monday)

Beginning July 20, 2015 we will be back to the third Monday for the balance of 2015.

Just a heads-up: Dues of a book of stamps will be due again beginning January 2015. Thanks.

NEXT MEETING: December 15, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

Season Wrap-up Checklist

(Reprint from 2010)

If you've decided to call it quits for the winter here's a list of things to consider in preparation for the off-season as well as projects for those cold winter nights so that you're in tip-top shape for next open-water season.

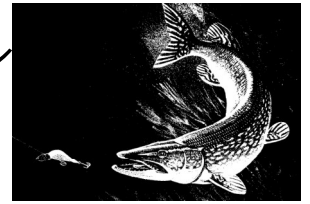
1. Pull the battery(s) from your boat, top off with distilled water (if not sealed), give it a charge and put in a cool dry place for the winter. Test it about once a month and don't let it drop below 75% of a full charge or battery will suffer from "sulfation" which renders a portion of the battery unusable..
2. Remove motor cover and spray entire motor-head with WD40, replace spark plugs. Put a small dab of white lithium or dielectric tune-up grease inside the plug boot cover with a Q-tip and smear around. While you got the grease out, take that Q-tip or artist's paint brush and coat with grease or other anti-corrosive agent the connections on your depth finder and other electronic connections to prevent corrosion. Pull your electronics and put them in a dry storage area. Also, pack your trailer light connections. Use an old cut off connection to act as a protective "cap" on both your vehicle trailer connection and the boat connection after anti-corrosive is applied. Check trailer wires for wear. Sometimes wires wear through at the fasteners. Electrical tape or better yet, heat-shrink sheaths will help protect wear areas. Make sure the fasteners are tight to prevent further wear. If you're really anal, you can put a thin coating of tune-up grease inside the trailer bulb sockets. Depends on how many bloody knuckles you're willing to suffer digging broken, corroded bulb connections out of those rusted sockets when the bulbs need replaced!
3. Change oil and filter in motor (if 4 stroke) and change gear lube in lower unit. Grease all pivot points on motor, pushing all old grease out. Replace or at least clean fuel filter. Also, top off fuel tank with fresh gas and add fuel stabilizer which is extra important due to new fuel formulas. Don't drain fuel system or gaskets may dry out and deteriorate. Some folks spray "engine tuner" through the carbs with the motor on idle to "fog" the motor for the off season. This is supposed to break down any carbon build-up and makes for better compression. Better read the manual for this procedure.
4. Consider replacing water pump impeller every few years, depending on usage. Sand, etc. gets sucked into the water intake and gradually wears the impeller to the point it no longer adequately cools your motor to the proper temperature.
5. Prop need rebuilt? No? Must not be trolling 500's! Better to get it rebuilt in the off season.
6. Repack trailer bearings with a good white lithium grease. It holds up best for constant submersions. Got an extra set of replacement bearings to carry with you on all trips? And the tools needed to replace them in an emergency? It's cheap insurance. If you've ever had a set of seized bearings 200 miles from home....on a busy interstate....on a Sunday night when NOTHING is open.... in the middle of nowhere.... you'll agree.
7. Give reels a thorough cleaning with hot, soapy water & toothbrush, dry and lubricate, put on fresh line and leave drag backed off. Might want to consider doing this job in the garage. Something about the doing this activity on the kitchen table that makes the spousal unit's anger level spike into the red zone.
8. Check rods for loose guides, and wear grooves in guides or tips. Replace if necessary. Rods are best stored by hanging from the tips.
9. Check all cordage such as anchor ropes, lure knocker and marker buoy lines. At least one marker should have a minimum of 50 feet of line to mark deep structure, use as the front rifle sight if other reference points can't be found or to simply to act as a "decoy" to throw invading fishermen off. Label markers "DNR" to prevent others from picking them up (initials stand for: "Do Not Remove" in case authorities ask about the initials). Billy Crossbones label and "Poison" also work well.
10. Check lures for hooks that need to be sharpened or replaced. Do you have enough Spoonplugs? Of course you don't! Nobody does!

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Mr. Perry said that Knowledge is the Key to fishing success. Have you ever noticed when you ask a fishing question that you get many different answers from the same question. You and I know what the answers are but we have had to work hard to find them out. Spoonpluggers are the only group of fishermen that have been handed a set of guidelines for catching fish. Most have never heard of Buck Perry or about any of his writings. This is not only amazing but a shame. How could it be that we feel honored to have known this man and others have not ever heard of him.

We might want to take a look at how Mr. Perry went about selling himself and what the fishing world is really like.

Most fishermen want the quick fix, handed to them on a silver platter and they cringe when you tell them they have to start out by reading a book! Mr. Perry knew that only a hand full of fishermen would ever accept Spoonplugging, yet somehow was able to move forward and doing it his way. About the time that Buck was starting to turn a few heads and getting some attention, along came a marketing guy named Ray Scott. He had visions of putting the fisherman in fancy jump suits and putting them up on a pedestal where they would be looked at as heroes. His plan worked; the tournaments that banned trolling became popular on TV and the new fishermen jumped on the bandwagon with the fancy boats and the new lure every few months and Mr. Perry and his fishing knowledge has taken a back seat ever since. And that's just the way it is. We are still the ones with the knowledge.

Good Spoonplugging
John Bales

Below, John & Dan Luley demonstrate why you should not put your boat in storage just yet! 2 nice muskies were caught and released and 22 BIG white bass were taken for supper on this day.



“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



**The more I learn, the more I see
there is to learn.”** *E. L. “Buck” Perry*

BUCK SEZ:

FISHING FACTS

One of the basic facts about fishing is: MOST of the time, MOST of the water contains no fish.

After talking to and observing fishermen for the greater part of my life, I am convinced that very few understand this fact. When referring to the mass of them, maybe the word “understand” is a bad choice of words. Maybe I should say, “don’t know” or “don’t care”. Better still, it may be better to say, “If they do know this fishing fact, they sure don’t let it affect their fishing procedures.” To bear this out, all you have to do is observe “where” and “how” they do their fishing.

You might say of the average fisherman, “Maybe he doesn’t know; maybe he has never been told this fishing fact.”

The pleading of “not knowing” is no excuse, in this case, for his fishing behavior. **If he’s catching no fish, it should be obvious he is fishing water that contains no fish.** If he has had his eyes open at all, he has observed that the fish caught, were caught in particular areas—and in certain ways. I can’t swallow the statement about his not knowing or hearing about “structure,” and what part of it and weather play in fishing. This might have been true 20-25 years ago, but not today. **(1)**

Although most fishermen today have heard about these important fishing facts, most take them lightly, and are concerned with, and depend upon, only Action, Size and Color of their lures to put fish on the stringer. Few realize these are **aids** only, and not the major controls! They spend hour after hour in certain sections of water trying all the little twitches, movements, wiggles, colors, or combinations—trying to create a fish right out of thin air (or water).

At times he may “stumble” upon some water that contains a fish, and for the rest of the day tries to duplicate that “certain something” that caught that fish. He can’t understand why other fish refuse his creation. I have often wondered if he ever gave any thought to the idea that maybe the fish he caught **was the only one that saw his lure all day!**

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”