

Arlington Anglers

From Salmon to Walleyes

Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

You don't need a 30 foot boat to fish for salmon in Lake Michigan (when the weather is right). At the April Arlington Anglers meeting, Captain Jim Kaske (www.luckydogcharters.com) talked about the basics needed to put together a successful salmon trip with the boats and equipment that we all use on the inland lakes.

On the small lakes, we are trained to look for structure: humps, drop-offs, rip-rap, holes, weeds, etc. On the big lake, we learned that the key factors were water temperature, water clarity, and most critical, your trolling speed (usually between 1.8 to 2.2 mph). If you don't know where the fish are, you have two choices: follow the fleet or head out from the harbor in NE or SE direction, closely monitoring your fish finder and the surface temperature.

Salmon fishing also introduces some new equipment that we might not have used before. The most popular lures are spoons, flies behind dodgers, or plugs like J-Plugs or Rapala-type lures. If the fish are near the surface, you'll use flat lines, yellow-birds, or planning boards. If actively feeding fish are deep, you'll use downriggers, dipsey-divers, wire/copper line, or one pound weights. The most valuable piece of equipment out there is your marine radio. Information from a trusted source can save hours of fishless trolling. In addition, it can be a valuable safety factor in case of an emergency.

At our May meeting, walleye tournament fisherman Mike Potaniec opened our eyes to some very effective walleye techniques. We all were familiar with the standard methods such as: vertical jigging, fluorocarbon leaders in clear water, running crankbaits over weeds, etc.

It was at that point that Mike really got

our attention by showing us the advantages of pulling 3 way rigs. The basic set-up uses a three way swivel tied to your main line. The bottom dropper line (8" to 24" inches depending on the fish attitude of the day) connects the 3 way with the weight (pencil, egg, or thumper). The tag line (24" to 60") can pull a crank bait or a live bait hook. The real eye opener was Mike pulling two floating head jigs with bait on the tag line, with the 2nd jig tied 12" behind the leading jig. Another version of this set up uses a pair of shallow running minnow type lures, with the 2nd tied 12" to 18" behind.

Believe it or not, both baits catch fish! The advantages of the 3 way rigs are: keeping the bait/lures close to the bottom (or in the "fish zone"), finding active fish, and covering more water.

Twelve members of the club experienced a great fishing and camping outing at Clinton Lake on April 20-23. The weather was beautiful and the crappies were found in numbers on the cove shore-lines and sunken wood with minnows. Every once in a while, there would be few bluegills or a large catfish that

would strip off or break your line. Back at our private group campground, we enjoyed a campfire and a crappie dinner every night. We look forward to returning in October.

Dates to remember :May 27 - June 3 Canada Trip to Wabigoon Lake; June 3 - Lake Shabonna; June 20 - Meeting at Dick's; July 11-18 - Wisconsin River Dells.

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities, and outings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We meet at Dick's Sports Store (Flr.1-NW) near Woodfield Shopping Center in Schaumburg, .5 miles north of Higgins, on Martingale Road.

Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 847-639-7858 or visit our website at: <http://arlingtonanglers>



Well dressed Arlington Anglers at Camp Quest prepare to hitch up boats for another spring crappie round-up on Clinton Lake.

PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS