

Arlington Anglers

Dave Puts Us on Ice And Fish

Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

"Hold off on getting that boat out of storage quite yet." That's what Dave Genz told the Arlington Anglers at their February Meeting.

Even though there have been some warm days around here, there is still plenty of good local ice fishing ahead. For some great late winter fishing, think about heading north into Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, or even Ontario.

Dave Genz is the man most responsible for the modern ice fishing revolution. He has tested and refined his Winter Fishing System on big and small water, proving that his system works on all species of fish in any state. In the course of two hours,

Dave shared his system with a room of very attentive fishermen that took his offering "hook, line and sinker": You need a good depth finder. A good ice fisherman needs to be able to see depths, structure, weeds, and most importantly fish. A depth finder becomes your underwater eyes in the winter. How do you know how the fish reacted to how you were jigging, so you can try something different the next time a fish comes up to your bait?

You need to drill holes easily. Dave compares drilling holes in the lake in the winter to making casts in a lake in the summer, the larger the area you cover the better chance of finding the right spot. A good auger takes the work out of the process and gives you more time catching fish.

You need a portable shelter. As a modern ice angler who is searching for fish at midday, you should take a personal pledge to fish in each new hole for no more than 10 to 15 min-



John Madejczyk and John Gusman ask questions as Dave Genz of Team True Blue shows them what he uses when he goes out on to the ice (Anglers meeting on 2/17/09). PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

utes, unless you are catching fish. But you do have to be out of the wind to make the most of your ice fishing, so get a portable model that goes up and down quickly.

You need the right clothing. Dave suggests a parka and bib combo with padded knees and seat. Make it waterproof, windproof, and a breathable outer shell. You can use Gore-Tex hunting boots on all but the coldest days, when Pac-type boots with felt liners are best.

You need a balance between the rod, reel and lure. A good rod and reel lets you feel the weight of the jig as you move it, but, you also have to be able to detect a slight tick, or the absence of the weight, and set the hook. Rods need to be matched to the pound-test line you're using. With lighter line, you can use a softer action rod. With heavier line you can use stiffer rods.

Dave designed the Genz's Worm, Fat Boy and Flyers jigs for Lindy. These lures fish heavy for their size and are designed to show up easily on your sonar, so they get down to the fish quickly with enough weight to keep them hanging straight.

Mobility. You not only have to have the right equipment, you have to limit how much of the right equipment you bring with you for a day on the ice. All your stuff has to be quickly mobile and organized to move if you're going to fish with the spirit of adventure it takes to succeed. You need to be able to change locations if there are no fish at the first spot. Dave recommends a snowmobile, but walking or ATVs can work also.

You need knowledge of the lakes in your area. Get as much information about the lake that you are going to fish. Talk to local fishery biologists, DNR, and the local bait shop.

Arlington Anglers

Dave Puts Us on Ice And Fish

Study a hydrographic map of the lake and if possible see if it is charted for your GPS on Lakemaster.

The Arlington Anglers were extremely fortunate to have Dave Genz speak at their meeting. He has written books on ice fishing, appeared on television shows, and has given seminars all over the US. His latest effort is working with Team True Blue (trueblueicefishing.com), a collection of manufacturers and ice fishing professionals whose objective is to show fishermen like us how to catch more fish thru the ice.

Dates to remember: Mar 14 - Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows HS (stop at our booth); Mar 17th - Meeting with Speaker: Muskie Pro Gary Dew; April 11 - Outing at Chain of Lakes State Park for walleyes; April 19 - Outing at Busse Woods for pan-fish; April 21 - Meeting with Speaker; April 30 to May 3 - Outing at Clinton Lake Camp Quest.

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, IL, .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.com>



Dave Genz of Team True Blue describing the various types of ice jigs at the Anglers meeting on 2/17/09. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS