

Arlington Anglers

Stay Warm & Catch More Fish Through the Ice

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Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

You will not be a successful ice fisherman if you are not dressed properly for the conditions. If you are cold, you tend not to change baits or move to newly drilled holes. You tend to stay in that shell or shack, stuck at that unproductive or fished out hole. You need to stay mobile, try more holes, to find those fish moving around.

At our last meeting on November 17th, the Arlington Anglers hosted Tony Boshold and Tod Todd, both award winners in the North American Ice Fishing Championships. Tony took 1st place in the 2005 and Tod took 5th place in the 2008. Here are some of the other ice fishing tips that they shared:

Dress in layers of polyester, polypropylene, or fleece that will wick moisture from your body. Avoid cotton that holds moisture. Your outer layer of coat and bibs should be water and wind resistant. You can find suits specially made for ice fishing that might include pockets for lights, bait, warmers, etc.

Your suit should also have reinforced seats and knees. Make sure your head is covered well and boots with at least 1000 grams of insulation (don't forget those poly socks for wicking moisture). Use those hand or toe warmers that heat up when exposed to air. You don't have to spend a lot of money, but make sure your rod is sensitive for those subtle bites.

Reels can be inexpensive too, as long as they are light weight and have a decent drag and rollers that won't kink or cut your line under harsh freezing conditions.

Electronics are key to successful ice fishing. There are various brands, but the Hummingbird flashers are the ice fishing standard.



*North American Ice Fishing Championships finalists Tony Boshold and Tod Todd showing high tech ice suit at the Anglers meeting on 11/17/09.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS*

Underwater cameras can be valuable to see fish moving thru, suspended in deep water, or residing in open pockets between the weeds.

When lowering your transducer or camera, do it slowly as to not spook the fish. Everybody has their favorite color and shape of jig. Same thing with the plastic tail. Try ones that wave in the water with the slightest twitch of the rod. On dark days or low light situations, try glow jigs or tails. If plastic doesn't do it, tip those jigs with spikes or maggots.

Try different combinations until you determine what the fish want that day. Make sure the hooks are sharp and not too big for that pan fish's mouth.

Arlington Angler dates to remember:
• December 13th: Club Christmas Party and Big Fish Awards Banquet at the LaMirage Restaurant in Rolling Meadows, IL;
• January 19th: Club Meeting and Speaker Dale Bowman, Sun-Times Fishing Columnist;
• February 16th: Club Meeting and

Speaker Bob Bott on Bass Fishing. 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>