

Do Some of Your Own Reel Magic

From Eric Heckman's February Meeting Presentation
by Bob Diebold

If you have some significant reel problems, you should have brought it in for repair a few months ago. Now that the shows are over, fishermen are starting to get the gear together for that first spring outing. Repairs might be backlogged at your favorite shops or parts may have to be ordered.

If you do your own rod and reel maintenance, Eric Heckman offered the anglers a few tips at the February meeting:



Eric Heckman of Coren's shows Garland Powell of the Anglers an early US made spinning reel from Langley.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

Check you guides on your rod for cracks or rough spots. Use a Q-Tip to find problems. Sand or replace. Un-noticed, this could help lose the biggest fish of the season.

Check rod seats, tightening rings, and handles. Holes in the cork can be repaired with some plastic wood fill.

Keep the reel out of the sun to extend line life, but just replace it if it is old or suspect.

Never start taking a reel apart unless you have a schematic. Get a copy from the box (what box?), Coren's or on-line. Drags that cannot be applied gradually are usually caused by dirty or compressed disks.

Most reel problems are caused by dirt or sand getting inside the reel. Keep it clean if possible. You can use WD-40 or solvent to take off old oil or grease that collects sand. Clean carefully and replace the lubricant.



Eric Heckman of Coren's Rod and Reel Service of Chicago provides some reel cleaning tips to the Anglers.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

Use a light oil (machine or 3 in 1 will work) on all rotating surfaces. Put just a drop on the handle, level wind, bail, and brake screw.

Use a grease (like Mobil One or Hot Sauce) on all meshing gears. Eric Heckman runs Coren's Rod and Reel Service on the NW side of Chicago. They can be reached at 773-631-5202. If you need reel service, parts, schematics, etc., the odds are that Eric has it in stock or can order it for you.

Mark These Dates

March 15th Meeting

Jim Phillips from the Cook County Forest Preserve District will talk about the over 40 Cook County Forest Preserve Lakes to Fish.

On **Saturday March 12th**, the Arlington Anglers will have a booth at the Indoor Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows H. S. This is a great chance to pick up gear at bargain prices. Stop in at our booth and find out more about the club.

Dates to remember:

3/5 Outing at Bangs Lake

3/12 Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows H.S.

3/15 Meeting & Speaker 40 Cook County FP Lakes to Fish

3/28-30 Outing at Reelfoot Lake, TN

4/9 Outing at Illinois River (Spring Valley)

4/16 Outing at Chain O' Lakes State Park

4/19 Meeting at Harper College Reservoir for Crappie Techniques Seminar (Jim Kopjo)

4/23 Outing at Lake Delavan.