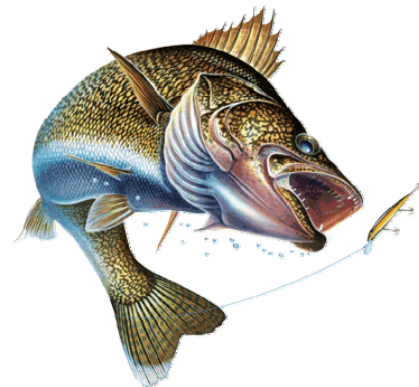


Arlington Anglers

Ice . . . Maybe This Year



Bob Diebold

Remember all of that ice fishing equipment that you bought last year and didn't get you use it once? There was one weekend early in the season where you had a chance, but that was it for the season. Ice fishing enthusiasts are hoping for a winter with steady temperatures below freezing, so you don't have to travel north to get out on the ice.

Last month, professional ice fisherman, Todd Tod and Tony Boshold, were at the Arlington Anglers meeting and got us primed for the upcoming ice fishing season. Todd does a lot of work educating novice ice fishermen and Tony Boshold has been successful in ice tournaments in the Midwest and has represented the USA in European tournaments.



Pat Harrison, Todd Tod, and Tony Boshold compare the advantages of various ice fishing rods. **PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS**

These "experts of the ice" showed a number of new products and offered these tips:

SAFETY:

Bring your cell phone and keep it in a zip-lock bag. Don't go alone and tell someone where you will be fishing. Wear ice cleat on your boots unless you want to end up on your back or head. Take an inflatable or throwable PFD. Only go out on safe ice, using a spud bar as you walk.

DRESS PROPERLY:

Wear layers. Avoid cotton and wear wicking layers. Turtle necks, fleece, wool, and even PJ pants are acceptable. Padded knees

will prevent wet clothes. Your outer layer should be wind and water proof. You can't have too many pockets on your jacket. You can buy expensive battery powered glove but the hand warmer packets will work just fine.

HOW TO DRILL HOLES:

8" holes with gas augers are big enough, but 5" holes with hand augers. Bigger holes can be a safety hazard if they get covered

with skin ice or snow. If you buy a manual auger, make sure both hand grips are off-set so you can really crank with both arms. Another option is to use your power drill with the auger, adapter and two batteries for the day. Use a mallet to shed ice off the auger blades, because slamming it on the ice can dull the blades. Buy a good scoop with a long handle so you don't have to bend over. Save your knees and use a longer pole so you can stand and fish. Save your knees and use a longer pole so you can stand and fish.

HOW TO FIND FISH:

Try spots were you found fish in the fall. Look for weeds,

sand patches, depressions. Use GPS and a Hot Spot or Lake Link map. Call the DNR and talk to the biologist or creel survey clerk. Use a flasher, fish finder, or under water camera. Check internet reports or forums. Talk to bait shops or the local taxidermist.

NEW PRODUCT:

Talking about new ice products, Dan Butcher showed us the *Tight Line Tip Down* device. It's a simple wood bar that sits atop your 5 gallon ice bucket (while you are sitting on it). At each end, there is a hanger for two more ice poles over two drilled holes. Light winds make the poles jig the baits. A fish strike is easily seen and can be quickly lifted from your sitting position on the bucket. It even has a built in ruler to measure those fish. Watch for it at your local bait shops.



Dan Butcher demonstrates his new *Tight Line Tip Down* ice fishing product **PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS**

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This author (and 30 other people) enjoyed a great weekend at the Club's camping and fishing trip to Clinton Lake, Oct 13-15th. It rained Saturday but that did not prevent crappie fishing, bonfires, a fish fry, and a Sunday breakfast. I am looking forward to the next trip to Clinton in the Spring.

Dates to remember:

Nov 3 – Outing

Fox Chain O'Lakes - Lake Marie

Nov 20 – Meeting

Election Night and Pizza Dinner

Dec 9 - Christmas Party & Awards Banquet

Jan 15 – Meeting

2013 Kick-Off and New Member Night

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 **6:30 to 9:00 PM. (New Time)**

Please note that we now meet at an earlier time. Located at Cabela's 5225 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL just off I-90 at Illinois Rt. 59. Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 312-560-9876 or visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com



Ray Black shows off his 14" white and black crappies taken at the club outing on Clinton Lake. Wait till the guys at the fire house see these!

PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS