



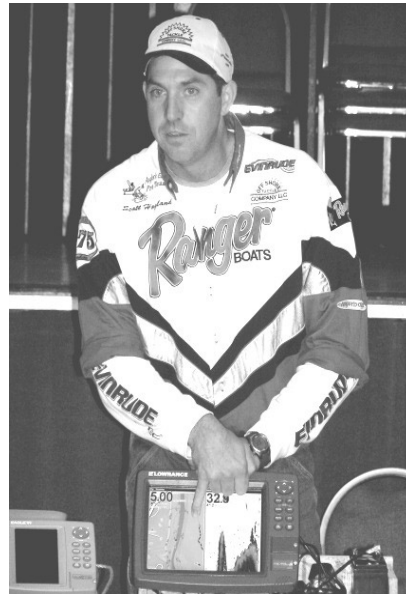
Editor: Tom Raschke (traschke@globaldialog.com)
608-233-6765

Editors Emeritus: Stan Nichols (sanicol@facstaff.wisc.edu)
Jayne Meyer (mshazmat@tds.net)

Where the Heck are We?

Notes by Stan Nichols

There is a woman, Mary Hanson in McFarland that finds her favorite fishing spot with a LCP (that is a long cane pole). I've seen her on Lake Waubesa between the Beach House and the Green Lantern probing the bottom. When she finds the spot she anchors and starts pulling in bluegills. If she is a little off I've watched her move as little as ten feet to find the spot. Mary catches a lot of fish. Buck Perry used spoonplugs, marker buoys, and triangulation from shore points to locate and record fishing hot spots. Both methods work, but Scott Hogland took us into the electronic age at the November meeting by updating us on GPS and sonar methods.



weed beds, or finding your favorite rock pile, or fishing hole. Locations may be stored as waypoints or icons can be placed on the map. An icon is a symbol that gives an indication of why it is there (boat landing, rock pile, fish spot, etc.), where as a waypoint give you the GPS coordinate. With new GPS units there is little difference between the two because the units can give you the GPS location of an icon when using the electronic lake map.

Combining GPS and sonar

The biggest advance in the last few years is to combine GPS and sonar in to one unit. With various memory "chips" (Navionics and Lowrance for instance) you can get and

store lake maps electronically and displays them so your position using GPS technology will be displayed in "real time" as you are cruising the lake. This is very useful for trolling breaklines, finding

Color

One of the more useful items in the last few years is color GPS and sonar. It is much easier to distinguish areas of interest. For instance, you can color trolling tracks differently, perhaps for different days. Sonar is also easier to read, especially bottom type. Another item on many of the units is the "overlay" features. Some can display "speed over ground" that gives an indication of trolling speed, safe time of arrival, sun and moonrise, water temperature, track miles to calculate gas used, and many other useful features.

Electronic Distribution of this newsletter

As Jim Pankratz explained at the last meeting, many club members have agreed to get this newsletter electronically. Each month we will distribute the newsletter as a PDF file of about 2 MB. You should get it several days before the printed version, and several members said it appears clearer. This will be a significant saving of printing and postage costs. On the other hand, we realize that some of you can't receive the newsletter electronically, so we will continue to have a printed, mailed newsletter available. If you can receive it electronically and have not told Jim, he can be reached at 288-9789, or by email at jimannepan@aol.com.

Continued next page

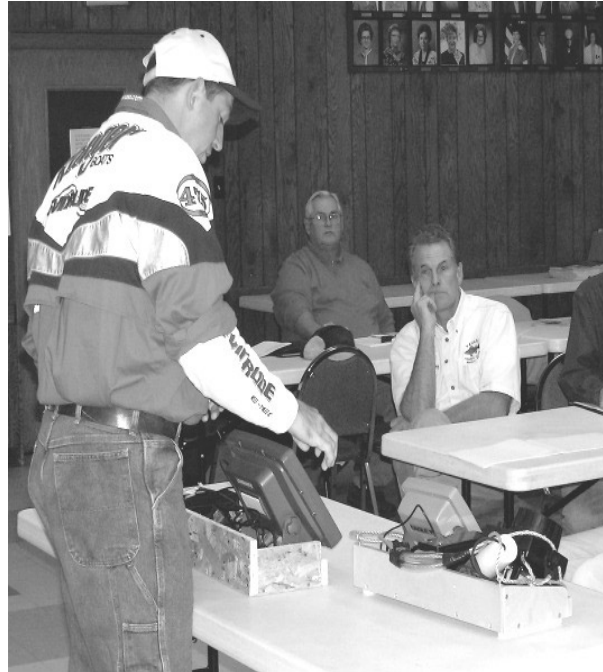
No Fish Symbols

As far as programming the sonar Scott usually places his chart and ping on high speed, his bottom depth on auto, he gets rid of any fish symbols, and sets his sensitivity manually. Usually a sensitivity reading between 65% and 75% will give good definition while eliminating surface clutter. Scott was asked if he had an opinion on external versus internal antennas in the units. He said he has seen both work well.

Accuracy was also a question. Generally speaking most experts say you can get within 20 to 30 feet of a designated location. With military interference now turned off, I think you can do better than that in most cases.

To really get to know your units capabilities and to be able to interpret what your unit is telling you Scott recommends teaming the GPS-sonar unit with and underwater camera or go out in the spring when the water is clear. You can cruise slowing around the lake and visually see either directly or through the camera what a rock, a big fish, bait fish, a weed bed, or a gravel bar looks like on your sonar unit.

Based on my basic premise that the best thing that has led to catching more fish in the last 20 years is comfortable boat seats, the thing I am waiting for in a GPS-sonar unit is a split screen so I can watch the unit on one half and television on the other. It won't give me more information about where the fish are located but it would probably keep me on the water (ice) longer-through some of the long, boring sessions between bites. Scott is local so if you are having problems with your unit, give him a call. He can probably help.



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Calendar of Events --
12/04/2008 Ron Barefield - Madison Chain Bonanza
12/11/2008 Randy Evans - Understanding your Vexilar
12/18/2008 Dave Berg - Lake Petenwell Tips & Tricks

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Notes From the Prez

It is the Saturday evening after Thanksgiving as I sit here at my computer. I know I have a lot to be thankful for. I even went out fishing on Wednesday and had a Muskie on. Jim Kloth and I went out with Gary Engberg and his friend Bob. We had a great time and Bob had the hot hand. We saw walleye, Muskie and Saugers that day. The Wisconsin River is a great resource.

I would like to thank Charlie Grimm for organizing the outing at Tenney Park. It was cold, windy and rainy, but we had a good time and a few fish were caught. The beans and weenies were great. Some of us commented that it was like being 12 years old and you were out fishing with your buddies.

Kids Ice Fishing Day is January 17th. The funding for this project is still up in the air. Stay tuned for further developments.

I will be re-typing the proposed changes to the By-Laws and they will appear in the next newsletter. Make sure you take a good look at them when they come out.

The Board will be making a decision on the winner of the Pete Froland Award and it will be announced and awarded at the January meeting.

The Fishing Contest ended as of November 30th and the new one started December 1st. Give Rick Lane \$5.00 and you are all set up for the new contest. Rick will be announcing the winners at the December meeting.

DUES – DUES – DUES. Your dues should be payed at the December meeting. Paying on time is very important to how the YFC functions. Please get this done.

Jim Pankratz will start signing people up for the Fishing Expo in Feb. This is an important activity for us and we are starting far enough ahead of time so that you can put it on your calendar right away. Help out the club and have a good time doing it. This is a win-win for you.

Here is something for you to think about. Wal-Mart has been great to us and our Kids Fishing Day in June. Hopefully this will continue, but no guarantees. If we maintain their sponsorship at the same level, we still need to shell out \$2500+ for the rods and reels. If you know of any source of funding for us, please let Rick Lane or me know. Also, you should know that there is a possibility that we may need to purchase hatchery fish to stock the pond. If we have a tough winter, there will not be many fish left in that pond.

Ice fishing is just around the corner. I heard the Grade had 3-4 inches of ice already. There will be a great tournament on Crystal Lake on January 31st. It is a fund raiser for a variety of good causes. I really enjoy working this one. Other ice fishing fisherees or tournaments are: Jan. 3 at Lazy Lake and February 7th is the tournament on Lake Pukaway. In addition, I help out the UW Whitewater fishing team with their tournament (they are raising money to send their members to tournaments). This year it is in Mukwanago on February 21 at

Double D Pub and Lake Beulah. If you know of any fisherees or tournaments within a reasonable distance on January 10th or 24th or Feb. 14th, please let me know. I drag my ATV, Jiffy Drills, Hook Set Tip Us and Aqua Vu camera to these events to promote these product. It is a great time.

We can all get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Holidays and forget the real meaning of the season. Instead of sitting there and packing on the pounds, get out and fish! If you want to go out on the Wisconsin River, but don't know where to go, give me a shout and I will help you out as much as possible. See you at the meeting.

Fishing Season Never Closes,
Duffy Kopf - Prez

December YFC Meeting

flash!!!.....to all members.....we will have our regular meeting on december 9 but in place of a guest speaker we will have a pot-luck christmas party.....this is informal.....bring a dish or snack to pass and your wife or a friend.....short business meeting and then food galore and time to visit and talk about 2008 and some great fishing memories.....special door prizes.....good food.....holiday cheer.....please be there!!

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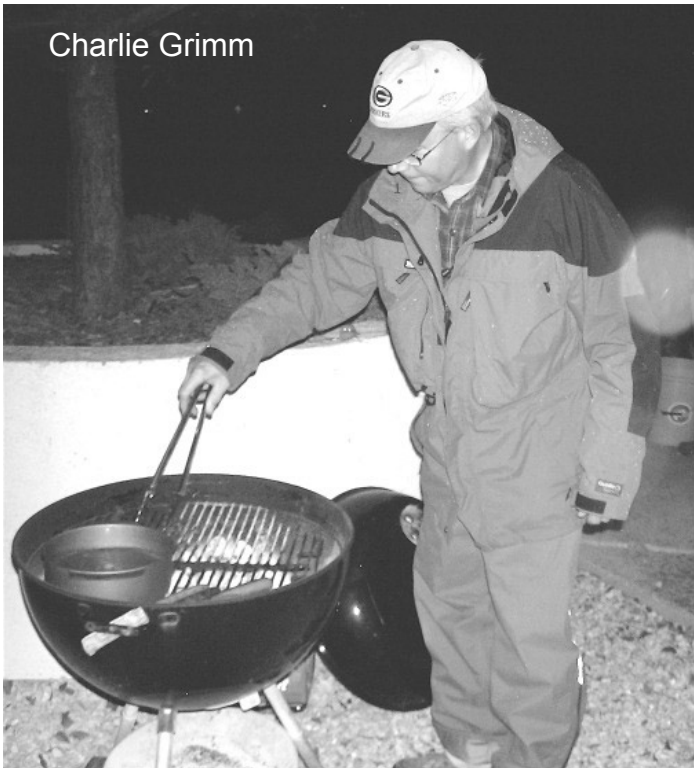
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November 13th Tenny Park Outing

On Thursday Night November 13th. Tenney Park was turned into Grimm's Park. Charlie & His Brother Bill had the Webber going by 5pm. Big Wienies were on the grill, along with bake beans, chips & desert. The weather was perfect! NOT! Windy, Wet (mild temp help!) A few fish were caught. Fun, fellowship definitely was had by all present. This Hearty Bunch are clearly enjoying the great idea Charlie and Jim Pankratz had for this outing

Hard Water Season is Close,
Kevin Tvedten

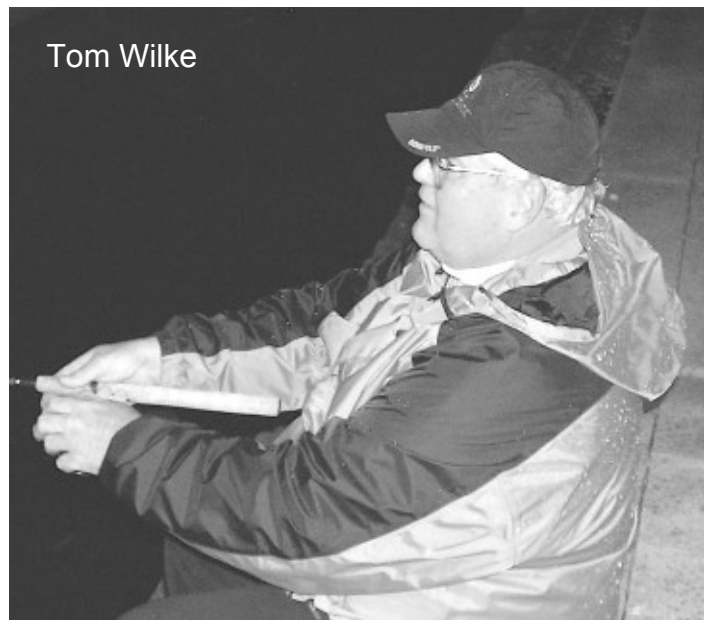
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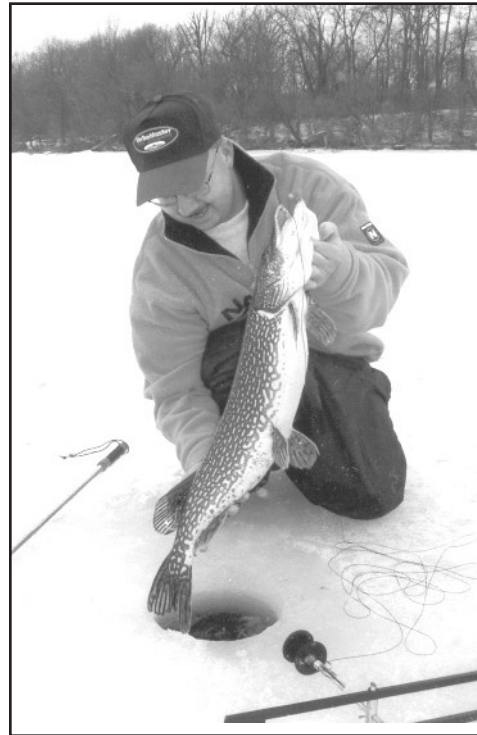
Wisconsin River Sloughs, a Winter Mixed Bag

By Gary Engberg

The sloughs and backwaters of the Lower Wisconsin River from Sauk City to Spring Green provide a varied and diverse fishery for the ice angler. Some of these backwaters are rarely fished during the summer and open-water fishing periods because they are basically inaccessible except during periods of high water and during the "hard water" or ice fishing season. The last dam on the Wisconsin River is at Prairie du Sac, the twin city of Sauk City or as many call the area, Sauk Prairie. But, besides this deep water close to the dam, the rest of the Wisconsin River is basically shallow with 10 feet being deep as the river flows west toward its confluence with the Mississippi River. This 90 mile stretch of river is slowly becoming wider and shallower. The Wisconsin is unlike the Mississippi which is navigable and maintains a channel that is at least 10 feet deep for barge traffic and the tremendous amount of goods that are shipped south down the "Big Muddy."

To safely navigate and fish the river in the summer months, a flat bottom or Jon boat is a necessity. As I said, many of the river's sloughs and backwaters are only fishable when there is ice. Some of these backwater hot spots may entail a little walking while others are just a short walk off the road. I'll try to give you some of the best areas to fish and the location of these river backwaters and sloughs. The north side of the Wisconsin River is bordered by State Highway 60 and travels about 15 miles from Sauk City to Spring Green. Badger and Rainbow Sloughs are both just off the highway and about half way to Spring Green on your left if traveling west. You'll see cars parked along Highway 60 and you should be able to see the frozen sloughs from the road. There are plenty of fishable waters along the highway where you'll see anglers and their ice houses scattered all the way to Spring Green.

The south shore of the Wisconsin River also has State Highway 14 running parallel to the river from Mazomanie to Spring Green. If you're driving



west on Highway 14, just before you reach the town of Spring Green, you'll see signs for Helena Marsh to the north or on your right. The water is visible from the road and there is a parking lot with good access to the backwaters. Most of the sloughs waters are shallow with water under 6 feet. Helena Marsh has a few deeper "holes" that you need good electronics to find, but look where others are fishing and you'll likely see where the fish are active. There also are some other good sloughs in the Spring Green area like; Jones, Erfurth, Hutter, Norton, and Bakkens Pond. Most of these waters are relatively small, running from 5 to 15 acres. But, they all have water that runs in from the Wisconsin River which means that about any species of fish can be caught.

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The most common species of fish that you're going to catch are; bluegills, crappies, perch, bass, northern pike and walleye. The panfish and pike are normally the most active fish that will provide action during the winter. Though both walleyes and bass are present, they are not the biters or as active as the 'gills and pike.

Wisconsin allows the use of three rods when fishing, so my suggestion is to jig for panfish with one rod and set tip-ups on the other two lines for pike or the odd walleye. Your panfish rod should be a sensitive with a spring bobber attached to detect the light bite of a bluegill. Make sure to have a wide selection of ice jigs (Marmooska's, Dots, Rat Finkies, And Cobras) in many colors and sizes plus a good supply of wax worms and spikes. I'd recommend 2 to 4 pound Stren or Berkley Ice line for the panfish. Using a fluorocarbon line can help and I recommend it, if the fish are finicky or in a neutral mood.

For walleyes, first make sure that you're using a good quality tip-up like a Beaver Dam or Frabill. Then, I'd use Tuf-Line, a super line (I like it in 65 # test) which excellent for larger fish like walleyes or pike. To the lines end, attach a barrel swivel and about 3 feet of a fluorocarbon leader (Berkley Vanish is good) to a # 12 treble for walleyes. You may have to use a small split shot about 15 inches above the hook to keep your minnows down near the bottom. For pike, I'd switch to 80 # test Tuf-Line and then use a Bait Rigs Quick-Set Rig which is made of a 7 strand wire with the hooks and swivel already attached to the rig. All you have to do is tie the Quick-Set rig directly to the Tuf-Line. Then I'd use shiners, golden shiners, or smelt for bait and you're set for catching a large river northern pike.

Early in the ice season, try to find the greenest weeds possible and set your tip-ups in that area. Position your bait so there is one above the top of the weeds and if you're alone, the other just outside the weed edges. The water you may be fishing might only be 3 or 4 feet deep or as deep as 10 feet. You'll catch pike in this shallow water and don't be surprised if you catch a few walleyes or saugers.

These backwater sloughs can be dynamite the first month of the season and they are always

worth fishing and checking out. Call the local bait shops and talk to them for fresh information. Talking to anglers that you see fishing is worthwhile because most anglers love to share information, especially if they're catching fish. See what others who are doing to catch their fish and do the same. Don't be afraid to ask questions because that's the only way you'll learn some of the local techniques and tactics for success.

Anything who could possibly want or need is available locally with numerous good motels and eating places.

Bait shops and information;
Wilderness Fish and Game, Sauk City, Wi.
(608)-643-2433.

Sauk Prairie Live Bait and Tackle, Prairie du Sac, Wi.
(608)-643-3700.

Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce (608)-643-4168.
Guides; Wally Banfi (608) 644-9823 and Ron Barefield
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The Yahara Fishing Club Charities is a 501 3C . You can donate money to our club and write the donation off on you taxes. Anyone wanting to donate money should write a check out to Yahara Fishing Club Charities and give it to one of the Board members at a meeting or send it to our Treasurer:

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 Video Library – Jeff Wydeven
 Auctions/Raffles – Tom Wilke (monthly)
 Promo Clothing – Clay Russell
 Kids Ice Fishing Day – Rick Seeger
 Membership – Jim Pankratz
 Kids Fishing Day – Duffy Kopf, Paul Marunich, Rick Seeger, Tom Wilke
 Newsletter Editor – Tom Raschke
 Speakers – Clay Russell
 Newsletter Mailing – Eric Olson
 Outings – Jim Pankratz
 Webmaster – Jayne Meyer
 Fishing Contest – Rick Lane
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Except for special Summer “On the water” dates, meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeside VFW Hall, John Nolan Dr, & Lakeside St. in Madison.

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, December 9th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:15 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:30 pm.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December Events

December 9th Club meeting - Lakeside VFW Hall

Speakers - Club discussion. See page 3. For those who are planning on bringing a dish to pass, feel free to contact Clay Russell or Charlie Grimm to get a good mix.

January Events

January 13th Club meeting - Lakeside VFW Hall

Speaker - to be announced

January 17th - Kids Ice Fishing Day (Tentative)

The Yahara Fishing Club's doors are open to **EVERYONE**, so invite a friend to the meeting!

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Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449
Secretary - Rick Seeger.....849-3714
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar838-9458

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