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Club Web site: <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org>

Swimming A Swim Jig

Notes by Stan Nichols

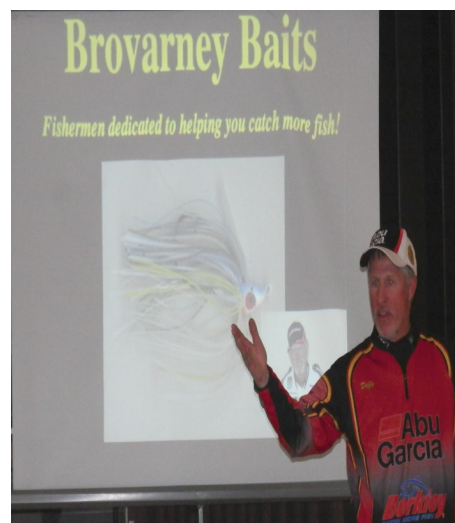
"Are you using Swim Jigs? If not why not"? That is the first question Larry (Duffy to most of you) Kopf asked at the November YFC meeting. I can give an answer to that- I didn't know what they were or how they differed from any of the other 10,000 or so jigs you find in the Cabela's or Bass Pro catalogs.

But they are different: The head is bullet shaped so it comes through the water and cover easily. It is hydrodynamic that allows flat, straight tracking. It has a 30-degree eye placement. The skirts are thin compared to bass jigs with only 30 to 50 strands of rubber. It has durable paint with an eye and the weed guards are sparse and flexible, acting as a keel. Tom Monsoor, a bass pro from LaCrosse was one of the first developers of swim jigs. He has won many bass tournaments, using them almost exclusively. They have evolved into northern and southern styles with the northern style generally being smaller and sparser than the southern style.

To fish swim jigs you just cast them out and bring them back on a straight retrieve. After you get used to fishing them, put a little erratic bump up or down every so often. They can be retrieved through just about any cover without snagging. Duffy fishes them on a 6.5 to 7 foot spinning rod or a light bait caster with little flexibility and good backbone - something needed for a quick hook set. For spinning rod line he likes Fire Line original or Crystal or Trilene- some times with a fluorocarbon leader. On his bait caster he uses Spiderwire. Duffy recommends starting out with one-quarter ounce size jigs.

Swim jigs are usually fished with a 3-to-6 inch curly tail grub with the tail pointed down. Twin tail grubs also work well and some are rigged with a flat, minnow type trailer hooked on sideways. Duffy recommends Kalin grubs.

For color, flash is important. Try to match the hatch for color. For lakes, like the Madison area lakes, where perch and bluegills are the primary forage, Duffy likes dark colors-blue or black combinations. Where shiners, shad, or other light colored forage is dominant use a lighter colored jig.



Duffy Kopf in uniform

December Meeting

There will be a brief business meeting followed by the annual Christmas Pot luck. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Spouses, significant others, or both are welcome.

Continued next page

Swim Jigs can be used in spring, summer, and fall – usually when the water temperature is above 50 degrees. They are useful on just about any fish in any habitat – any place you would use a spinner bait, buzzbait, weedless frog, or shallow crankbait. Places like shallow areas, weeds, brush, riprap, sloughs, and along the shady sides of rocks, logs, or wing dams.

Charlie Grimm reminded us not to forget the inside edge of weed beds and don't forget to drop them in holes in the vegetation. In the spring and fall you may want to use a straight retrieve, but in the summer make it more erratic. Make a quiet approach to your target area. Many times you can catch multiple fish from a small area.



Make long casts and the retrieve can go any where from just below the water surface to just above bottom. It is fished much like a spinnerbait. The swim jig begins working as soon as it hits the water. Deflection from cover is great to trigger strikes.

Duffy recommends Brovarney Baits for quality swim jigs. Look them up on the Internet. Any more questions, Duffy is easy to contact.

Comments from the Prez

As I type this, it's the last day of November, there's ice forming around the edges of the lake, the fishing boat is winterized and in storage till spring, and the summer fishing gear is lying dormant. I hope this winter to devote more time to learning when, where, and how to fish through holes in the lake ice. Having little else to say that is clever or interesting, I will simply bid all you YFC members a most happy holiday season, and wish everyone holiday gifts from Gander Mountain, Cabelas, or your favorite supplier of fishing gear. I look forward to seeing you all at the YFC holiday meeting (and food jamboree) on December 10th, at the Kids' Ice Fishing Day event and the Ice Fishing Jamboree in January, and at the Club auction and the Fishing Expo in February, all of which should help get us through the cold and snow of the winter months. Good luck to all of our members and their families in the New Year, and may 2014 bring every one of us lots of fishing success!

Gard

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OUTINGS UPDATE DECEMBER 2013

Lake Waubesa Derby will be the designated outing on Jan. 18th out of the Green Lantern Restaurant. Duffy and Jim will be running this as a fun and fund raiser for the club.

The Feb. outing back by popular demand icing Whitefish out of Sturgeon Bay on the weekend of the 8th. I have heated shacks reserved and will have a sign up at the Jan. meeting. See more info on page 6.

More detail will follow for the Barge outing in March, possible Striper outing in Tennessee in April, and Walleye on lower Green Bay in May.

Tom K



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ljkopf@tds.net

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2013 ICE FISHING SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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12/19 Ron Barefield Multi Species Opportunities

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Gene & Sandy

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THE YAHARA FISHING CLUB
MADISON, WI
Ice Fishing Derby

When: Jan. 18, 2014 (alt. date: 2/1/2014)
Registration (\$10) 6:00am - 10:00am
(Red ticket for weigh in)
Fishing starts at 7:00am

Where: Lake Waubesa
Green Lantern Restaurant
4412 Siggelkow Road
McFarland, WI 53558
Food specials all day

Why: Raise money for YFC kids events

Door Prize Tickets - \$5 or 3 for \$10 (Blue tickets) **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**
Prizes from Jiffy, JB Lures, HT, AquaVu, Clam, Bait Rigs, Nebulus, D&S Bait, Dick Smith's Bait

Grand Prizes: Nebulus Flotation Device, Jiffy Pro4 Lite, Clam and HT shelters

Award Categories by weight
Walleye, Bass (L&S), Pike, 10 panfish (gills, perch or crappie) - Kids (12 & under) - largest single panfish

Weigh In - 2:00pm (need red ticket)
Prize drawings after weigh-in!
1st place each species - \$75
2nd place each species - \$25
Kid winner - merchandise

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All Wisconsin fishing rules apply

Contact: Jim Kloth - 608-635-0116
tightline62@gmail.com

www.yaharafishingclub.org

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Falling Through the Ice

Almost seventeen years ago, I was out on Lake Waubesa for an early ice Saturday outing with my friends from the Yahara Fishing Club. It was first ice, not thick, but it seemed strong and sturdy enough for walking. I decided to stay home the next day because it was very warm and raining. Monday morning was the typically harsh cold front, so I felt that now it was time to go back out to where we had caught some nice perch.

I was the only one out there, about one half mile from shore. I jigged up 12 perch at my first spot, then ventured off to the right another 100 yards. There I caught another 6, but the schools moved away so I decided to walk back to the first spot. I thought I was on the same path, but without any footprints, I apparently was slightly off course. I remember looking down and thinking, "Gee, this ice looks really clear."

Suddenly I felt and heard the ice breaking under foot. I was hoping that it was just a skim ice layer over a water puddle, but no. I had just fallen through the ice in over 30 feet of water! Instinctively I was dog-paddling as I had let go of the hand auger in my right hand, and the sled rope in my left. Now I began talking aloud to myself. "You really did it this time, Jim!" "You must not panic now!"

It was just like a bad dream. As I grabbed the thin ice in front of me, it broke easily so I just kept dog paddling forward. Fortunately I had only gone in up to my armpits, my head remained dry so the initial cold shock was minimal. I remembered the ice picks that I had made, big nails with knotted rope glued and wrapped around them. They were zipped in a chest pocket. I decided that because my hands were busy dog paddling, I would try another method of extraction.

When I finally reached the edge of the thin ice, I flutter kicked my booted feet hard. I reached my arms far forward and got as much of my upper body weight on the strong surface as possible. With my legs parallel to the good ice, I rolled to the right and was out of the water. Adrenaline was coursing through my veins. I had just saved myself from a sure death!

I got to my knees and turned just in time to actually see my Vexilar slide off the front of the kiddie sled that was floating in the large hole. I grabbed the auger that was on the ice next to me and used the handle to hook the bucket which was floating upright due to the fish ballast that it contained. As I was pulling out the sled and its attached milk crate, I noticed that I was missing a rod and reel combo.

"What are you doing, trying to recover this equipment for? You are not out of danger!" I continued speaking to myself out loud, knowing full well that I was the only person around who could hear. Nobody even saw me. I gathered up my belongings and circled back around, giving the area a wide berth. Walking quickly towards shore, I remember saying to myself that I had really better be careful and look where I was going. I did not know if I could psychologically deal with falling through the ice a second time. I might lose control and panic out of despair.

I felt like kissing the ground when I made it in, but I got in my vehicle and drove. Now I could feel the cold water that had spilled over my bibs, my stomach felt like the skin was burning. On the way home, I debated whether I should tell my wife about this accident. I decided that I had to, because I needed to buy a new Vexilar. I walked in through the front door to see her sitting in the big chair, nursing our newborn daughter. "I fell through the ice today." Immediately she replied, "You knew that you would someday." I was startled for a moment, then realized that she was right.

A few years earlier we had gone to an ice fishing safety seminar held in an auditorium during the Madison Ice Fishing Show. The speaker was a sheriff's department officer, David Branley of the Dane County Lakes Patrol. He would conclude each segment of his presentation with the somber statement, "Or you will die!" It was dramatic to hear his strong voice on stage with the theater lighting, and it remains with me today. Please, let it be a lesson for us all.

When you fall through the ice, you have a very limited amount of time to get out. Your hands quit functioning and your body rapidly begins shutting down. You must immediately react and put all of your rehearsed plans into action. You must get out of the water quickly. You must totally suppress the urge to panic. You cannot rely on others for help, they may not be able to. You have to save yourself. Prepare!

Jim Kusuda

White fish Outing update Dec. 2013

There is a lot of interest in the White Fish outing the weekend of Feb. 8th. Thus I will have a sign up sheet at the Dec. potluck meeting Dec. 10th and finalize sign up at the Jan. meeting on the 14th.

As you may have heard, there is serious talk about reciprocal activities with the Rock River Fishing club out of Janesville/Beloit and I have been in touch with their activities chairman, Rodney Bondele. It is likely some of their members will be joining us at Sturgeon Bay and we will be joining them on some of their future outings (as did Roger Swenson for Smallmouth this late fall). I am looking forward to this win/win relationship and meeting some fellow fishers.

A brief summary:

The motel will either be the Comfort Inn (special rate of \$70.00 per night) or the Americinn (waiting on a rate quote), both in Sturgeon Bay. Arrive Friday afternoon, depart Sunday after morning fishing. A complimentary breakfast served at the motel, other meals as a group (optional) at local restaurants.

Optionally you can pick up bait in Dykville Friday on the way up.

Saturday smorgasbord lunch on the ice, beverages are BYO.

Recommended Tackle to Bring by Guy Ringle

Medium or medium light action ice fishing rod. (Typical light walleye rod or heavy perch rod)

Spinning reel spooled with 6 lb or 8 lb fused main line. I use crystal fire line 6lb.

Assortment of jigging spoons;

Swedish pimples (gold with cracked ice tape, pearl white with cracked ice tape, silver with cracked ice tape, size 3 and size 4)

Macho minnows (gold shiner, silver shiner)

6 lb Floro carbon leader with cross lock snap between spoon and barrel swivel to main fused line.

Small gold treble hooks to run above barrel swivel.

Large tear drop ice jig to run above barrel swivel as second option.

A large supply of wax worms. I hook these on treble hook or tear drop jig above barrel swivel. Note; sometimes gulp alive wax worms will work. I tend to use the real thing. Good to have gulp along as back up.

A large supply of medium size river shiner minnows. I tear the heads off and hook heads on spoon treble hook. (I usually get bait at Dykville gas station on way to Sturgeon Bay)

Ice auger optional if you want to fish outside the shack (coordinate with group)

Hole scoop

Fish Locator/flasher. It definitely ups your success rate to have one.

Pail to carry your gear.

Pail or bag to carry fish back

Ice creepers

Warm clothes

Your Wisconsin Fishing License

Please see the article from last year for more info, newsletter Dec. 2011.

<http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/Newsletters/YaharaNewsletterDec11.PDF>

A \$40.00 non refundable deposit is required so I can assure we will have enough shacks for our group. Our outfitter is again Hooked up Charters with Captain Dean who will meet us Sat. am to transport us out to the shacks. Please make any checks out to the Yahara Fishing Club in care of Dennis Puser our treasurer, who will send a check to Dean for all after we have settled up after the outing. You will be responsible for paying your motel bill.

Should be fun again, hope the ice and fish cooperate.

Tom K



Before heading out on ice:

Contact a local bait shop or lakeside resort to ask about ice conditions.

Check ice thickness once you get there.

Temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and rough fish all affect the relative safety of ice. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water; it can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away. Check the ice at least every 150 feet.

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This year again we received \$500 from

The Rod Regel Memorial Fund and
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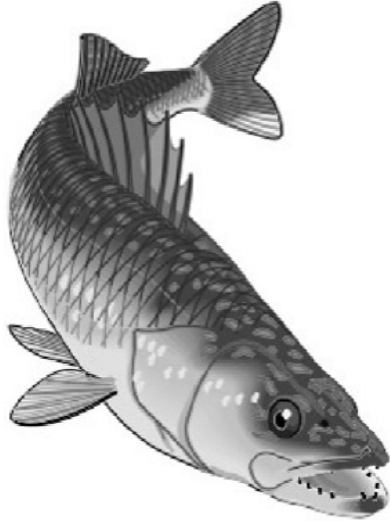
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Check out our web page at: www.yaharafishingclub.org

**The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 10th, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Speaker: None. A brief meeting and then we eat.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December Events

December 10 - Regular Club meeting - pot luck

January Events

Jan 11, 2014 Kids Ice Fishing Day. Details to follow.
January 14th - Regular club meeting
January 18th - Ice fishing derby

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

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