



January  
2011

Editor: Tom Raschke ([traschke@globaldialog.com](mailto:traschke@globaldialog.com)) or 608-219-9243

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

## Winter Brown Trout

By Gary Engberg

There is a great bite going on now and continuing thru the winter on Lake Michigan, south of Milwaukee. The area that you want to target is the waters around the warm water discharges of the Oak Creek Power Plant. The best place to launch is Bender Park which is off Ryan Road and Highway 100. This is not far off Interstate 94 and like I said, just south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Bender Park is a good landing, even in winter and there is no charge for parking this time of year. The Oak Creek Power Plant is a short boat ride out of the park. As you motor out from the harbors mouth, go due east and head out to 30 feet before you head towards the power plant. The water is shallow and dangerous if you head right for the power plant, so go out to the deeper water before heading toward the discharges. Thirty feet of water is only a half a mile at most from the harbors mouth. When you reach the deeper water, then head south toward the break wall and you'll be in the right location. This is not a secret spot, so you'll see other boats in the area on most nice days.

There are two ways to fish the Oak Creek Power Plant; one is by trolling and the other method is anchoring and casting spoons, cranks, and live bait. First, let's cover the trolling pattern. An angler can fish from smaller boats this time of year because you are close to shore and in shallow water. Most anglers are fishing out of their walleye boats or all-around boats with very few charter boats out this time of year. Most fishermen troll with their "kicker" motors at a speed of 1.0 to 2.0 M.P.H. Vary and change your speed till you can dial in on the speed the fish want. The deepest water that you want to fish is about 20 feet. The area to concentrate on is the waters around the discharges because the warmer water really attracts the brown trout. Some fishermen troll



Eric Haataja with a nice brown.

with Off Shore planer boards and crank baits, while others prefer to long-line their lures. I like using planer boards because I feel I can get my lures farther away from the boat to avoid spooking the fish.

The best baits seem to be the Mann's Stretch baits, Rattling Rogues, Bombers, and Rapala Shad Raps. The best colors lately are blue, green, silver, and grey tones. Try experimenting with the size and colors of your crank baits because the size and color that the browns prefer can change daily. Some days the longer "stick" baits seem to work best while other days a shorter crank like the Shad Rap work best. The new Rapala glass Shad Rap in white has been hot and make sure to have one or two in your box. The Precision Trolling Book is a must if you want to know where your crank baits are running when trolling. The amount of line that you let out to your crank varies from 80 to 120 feet depending on what crank bait you're using. Spoons like the Stinger and Northport also work and should be included in your arsenal.

*Continued on page 3.*

Notes From the Prez

Well, as for me and mine, it was a Christmas like no other since I am really beginning to feel like grampa! Our grand-daughter is almost 4 and we're buddies but it's mainly gramma that she clings to when we visit.....dollhouse, ballet, art projects, cookies and stuff like that. But little Fred and Jack are both about a year and a half now and we are into truckin' man! Little trucks, big trucks, garbage trucks, trucks in the snow and everywhere we go. We spent Christmas weekend in the twin cities and they have certainly had their share of snow this year. I read so many truck books that I'm still seeing them in my sleep. I don't know for sure what next Christmas will be like but if I'm blessed to be around for it, I better start lifting weights! These boys are gonna be a load! And there's another one due in March.....and , yes, it's gonna be a boy! Happy new year grampa.....I better get a bigger boat!

Yep, having a family around is a wonderful thing.....especially during the holidays. Our club is certainly like another family for me and probably for you too. If you missed the December meeting/holiday party, that's a shame. We finally dodged the snow and got our celebrating done early. Now it's on to the new year and lots to do for sure. For starters, please plan to attend the January meeting and pay your dues, if you have not done so already. I'm sure that sounds like a broken record but it remains a very important message that needs to be heard. Maybe get into the fishing contest too. And perhaps order a new club shirt or hat to wear at this year's Madison Fishing Expo.

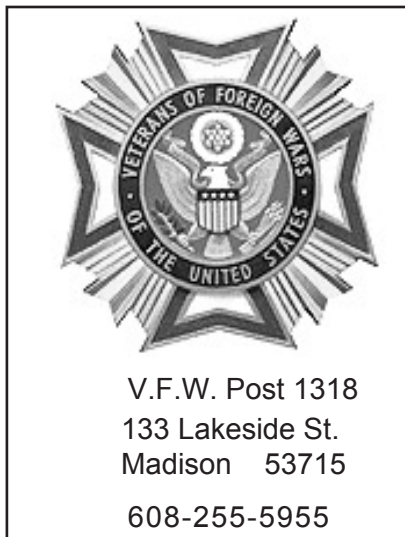
We also have to finalize plans for the Kid's Ice Fishing Day on Jan. 15. This is always an exciting event and we do have, for sure, enough

ice this year. I hope we can all attend and help out in some way. If you're not sure what exactly needs to be done.....well, come to the meeting on January 11.....hang a sign on your back that says "volunteer".....and we'll see what happens next. There's plenty of detail work in planning this event.....with preparing the fishing rods, serving food, and, most importantly, spending a few minutes with the kids (and parents). Many have never done this before and the skills we all take for granted are just not there. But it only takes one scrawny little bluegill stretchin' that string to make the day complete and possibly open up a whole new world for some kid who spends too much time in the house all winter. So please don't be shy! These folks really do need just a little help from their friends. That's us!

We have a very exciting outing coming up on February 12. Tom Klein has set up a trip to the Milwaukee Harbor for us to catch a few giant Brown Trout. Maybe more than a few! Light the grill! Details at the January meeting. If you plan to tag along bring a little money honey, as we need to get a final head count and send a deposit. From the looks of the photos that Tom e-mailed out, I would say that this could be awesome. And probably not for the faint-hearted! Better spool up with something a bit stronger than 2 pound test my friends!

As usual, lots to do. Checking out club and Madison area fishing info is so interesting and easy now with our website and face-book. Also check the Expo's site, D&S Bait, Gary Engberg's and so many others. When I'm not fishing.....I'm planning to go fishing! If you want to talk about fishing.....that's good too. I'm always at 220-8934. See you at the next meeting!

Charlie



Charlie learning to fish.

*Winter Brown Trout, continued.*

The keys are; 1) Work the water around the discharges. 2) Vary your trolling speed till you find the speed the trout prefer. 3) Have a good assortment of crank baits and spoons in the hot colors and the different sizes that I mentioned earlier. 4) Experiment. 5) Look for the cleanest water that you can find and fish there.

The other proven method for catching Lake Michigan brown trout is to anchor your boat near the discharges and cast. Spoons and crank baits work well, but the best method lately has been live bait. Fishermen are hooking shiners (shiners are the best bait now) on a plain hook with a split shot for weight and casting the rig out and "dead sticking" it. Having rod holders and putting the dead rod in a holder works best. Some days, all your fish may come on the dead rod baited with a good size shiner. The important thing is to keep moving and re-anchoring till you find fish. The brown trout move regularly, so you have to keep moving till you find the aggressive trout. So, remember to keep moving till you find the "biters"! While anchored, cast your crank baits and spoons and vary your retrieve till the fish tell you what speed that they like that day. No one spot is better than another, so moving around is important. Recently, some friends of mine limited out while fishing shiners and a split shot in 8 to 10 feet of water.

Most fish caught lately are good size, ranging from 15 to 17 pounds. Anglers have been catching their limits of browns and the good fishing should continue into March at least. Dress warm and check the fishing reports regularly to get up to date reports. This is definitely a must if you want some great action and are tired of fishing on hard water.

**Contacts and Bait Shops;**

A and C Live Bait (414) 372-1020  
 Bob's Bait Shop (414) 453-2460  
 The Fishing Hole (414) 481-9090  
 The Fish Shop (414) 541-0580

A good web-site to check is [www.baitnet.com](http://www.baitnet.com) and click on Lake Michigan and Bender Park. Another good bait shop in West Bend is The Bait Box (262) 338-9455.

**Gary Engberg Outdoors**

10106 Hwy. Y Mazomanie, WI. 53560  
 Phone & Fax 608 795-4208  
 E-mail [gengberg@chorus.net](mailto:gengberg@chorus.net)  
 Web site: <http://www.garyengbergoutdoors.com>  
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**2010 Fishing Contest Winners**

Here are the winners: This is a little different than announced, but this is correct. There are a couple of people who got money but are not shown here because the won the money as the winner had already won (only one payment) and they were second. Too confusing to put in newsletter.

Rick Lane

- Musky - Larry Mothershead - 41 1/2"
- Northern - Tom Wilke - 42 3/4"
- Walleye - Guy Ringle - 30 3/4"
- Sauger - no entry
- Large Mouth - Stan Nichols - 19 1/2"
- Small Mouth - Stan Nichols - 18 1/4"
- Bluegill - Jim Kusuda - 10 5/8"
- Perch - Paul Zoch - 11 3/4"
- Crappie - Jim Kloth - 15"
- Catfish - Paul Zoch - 32"
- Brook Trout - Jon White - 15 1/4"
- Brown Trout - Paul Zoch - 21 1/2"
- Rainbow Trout - Stan Nichols - 15 3/4"
- White Bass - Jon White - 14 3/4"

**Raffle News**

For January we have ice fishing items:

Some very cool "Heritage" tip ups which are manufactured in Maine and are very popular in the East. These quality tip ups sell for \$30 to \$38. We also have an ice rod, spring bobbers, ice bobbers, ice rod stands, ice line and more.

Not forgetting open water, a featured item will be a Rapala IM6 rod combo with a 4 ball bearing reel, a \$40 to \$50 value. Also some Mister Twister plastics, Berkley Power Baits, and stand up jigs.

Good luck and thanks for helping our club functions by entering the raffle.

Special thanks to Duffy and Steve Simon, Maurice Sporting Goods (a wholesale supplier to Farm & Fleet, Wal Mart, etc.) and to Fin-Tech fishing tackle for their assistance.

## Ice Ordinance Information - Dane County

Dane County Ordinance Chapter 71 requires certain motorized vehicles operated on lakes within Dane County to be equipped with flotation. This page highlights some of the requirements and provides information on inspection dates. Visit Dane County Website to view the literal ordinances.

### Flotation Requirements

Lakes Mendota – Monona – Wingra

Vehicles weighing over 850 lbs. require special use permit. Vehicles weighing under 850 lbs. require flotation and a permit.

All other Dane County Lakes

Vehicles weighing over 850 lbs. require special use permit. Vehicles weighing between 750 – 850 lbs. require flotation and a permit. Vehicles weighing less than 750 lbs. have no restrictions.

**All vehicles requiring flotation and/or a permit must be inspected. Inspection dates, times, and location are listed below.**

Specific Vehicle Type Flotation Information  
Snowmobiles – Require 16 cubic feet of flotation.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) – Require 5 cubic feet of flotation. Note: ATV's are designed to float themselves, but not the passenger(s) and gear.

Inspection Fee: There is now a \$10.00 inspection fee for all new and renewal inspections. The fee is payable by cash or check (must have photo ID), and must be paid at the time of inspection.

Flotation must be mounted as equally as

possible, front and back, or side to side. The floats must be hard mounted to the machine (bolts, metal brackets, chain, cable, etc.). Nylon straps, bungee cords, ropes, etc. are not permitted.

The flotation material used is most commonly styrofoam, either in sheets, blocks, or sprayed. Popcorn or peanut type packing material is not acceptable. The flotation should be enclosed/protected by wood, metal, aluminum, or plastic to prevent it from breaking. Air filled containers are not acceptable. Pictures of some sample flotation are shown below.

Each cubic foot of flotation will float 60 lbs. Diameter measurements can be deceiving. Each diameter measurement listed below equals one cubic foot of flotation. If using cylinders, you will need to multiply the length times 5 for an ATV, and times 16 for a snowmobile to get the correct length of cylinder needed.

•6	inch	cylinder	X	61	inches	long
•8	inch	cylinder	X	35	inches	long
•9	inch	cylinder	X	27	inches	long
•10	inch	cylinder	X	22	inches	long
•12	inch	cylinder	X	15	inches	long
•14	inch	cylinder	X	13	inches	long

Inspections are held at the Dane County Parks old office located at 4318 Robertson Rd., Madison, WI. (See map below). Inspections at this location are done only at the dates and times listed; do not go to this address at any other time expecting an inspection.

### 2010-2011 Inspection Dates:

Thursday evening inspections will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Saturday morning inspections will be held from 7:30am to 9:30am. Times will be held firm.

December 4th (Sat), 9th (Thur), 11th (Sat), 16th (Thur), 18th, (Sat), 23rd (Thur), 30th (Thur)  
January 6th (Thur), 8th (Sat), 13th (Thur), 15th(Sat), 20th (Thur), 22nd (Sat), 27th (Thur), 29th (Sat)

More dates will be added as necessary.



**Mendota Boat Works**  
5380 Farmco Dr.  
Madison, WI 53704  
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### YFC 2011 Club Dues

As the year 2010 has come to an end, it is time to renew your membership in the Yahara Fishing Club.

You can pay your dues at the December meeting or by sending your check to the club's post office box: P. O. 3271, Madison 53704.

Individual memberships are still \$25.00 and family memberships are \$35.00. The money raised from the annual dues is used to cover the cost of operating the fishing club.

### Did You Know...

It makes a difference where you buy your boat launch permit in Dane County. If you purchase your permit from the City of Madison, all funds received go to support and improve the City of Madison parks and launches. If you purchase your permit from Dane County, the money is used to support and improve parks and launches on a county wide basis. So if you live in the City of Madison and primarily use their parks and launches, you may get a better return on your dollars spent for launch permits by purchasing from the City of Madison or

### Muskie School

Capital City Muskies Inc.  
10th Annual Muskie School  
March 19, 2011  
Waunakee High School

\*\*Details coming soon - put this date on your calendar

Thanks, Duffy

### YFC December Meeting



Cory Steil from Dorn Hardware making his presentation.



And lots of great Food!

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## Brown Trout Outing, Feb 12th, Milwaukee

YFC members mark your calendar. Ben Kueng will be speaking at our Feb meeting on the 8th followed by an outing on Saturday the 12th. To register for the outing, please provide a down payment of \$25 at the next meeting to the YFC treasurer. We don't know the exact cost, but it will be less than \$100 - depends on how many register. More detail to follow. This is a an opportunity to participate in and learn about this adventure.at a very reasonable price. Hope to see a bunch of us there.  
Tom Klein

### Ben Kueng, guide to the outing

Hello and thank you for you're interest in a club outing for brown trout and steelhead. The marinas iced up by the first week of December this year and we have been taking advantage of the early ice bite ever since. The browns are stacked in the marinas pretty thick right now and the water clarity is almost perfect. For the last 2 weeks the water has been dirty with only 1 foot of visibility and before that it was gin clear. Every day on the harbor is a little different and you generally have to constantly tweak your presentation to match the trout's mood. This year we started catching most of our fish on lake shiners, but the last few days' fresh spawn has been more productive. I am very particular about the size and quality of brown eggs I use, which is something I will go into extensively when I speak at your club.

My general rule of thumb is that I like to get at least 1 hit per every line that I have in the water during a full-day trip. Here is a good example of the extremes from day to day. Yesterday I had 5 clients on the ice and we were running 18 lines including my 3. We landed 12 fish including an 18 and 20lb brown, lost 7 and missed another 8 fish. Out of the 5 clients only 1 was jigging the entire day and ended up going 2 for 4, landing a 4 and 20lb brown trout. The 20lber took him 20 minutes to land!! The next day I had 3 clients on the ice with 12 lines in the water and we ended up going 0 for 11. There weren't any issues this day locating fish, the fish just weren't aggressive.

I spend a majority of my winter fishing the harbors for trout and it's rare for me to be off the fish for more than a few hours. However, trout are very finicky and are unlike any other fish you have ever pursued through the ice. Trout fishing is definitely not a "numbers game" but the reward is much, much greater than yanking pike after pike through a hole on tip-ups.

As an avid fisherman and outdoor enthusiast I am always looking to step up my game and learn whatever I can to make me a better fisherman. I believe it's the same for most of you reading this. This is one of the main reasons why we join clubs and socialize with people that have the same interests. What you will learn from

me on this outing will not only help you become better trout anglers, but better anglers all around. The key to trout fishing is stealth and I can't tell you how much more successful I have been with other species since I started trout fishing.

Personally I find that the automatic fisherman ([www.automaticicefisherman.com](http://www.automaticicefisherman.com)) is a much better tool for pursuing trout than any tip-up on the market. The AF allows you to fight every fish on a rod and reel, which greatly increases your odds on landing each fish. With a tip-up you are fighting the fish without a drag and it's very hard for most people I fish with to hand line a 20lb trout without snapping the fluorocarbon leader. I personally own 35 AF and am expecting another order of 20 in the next couple weeks, so everybody will have at least 2 AF and a jig rod to use as there own during the outing.

If you have any specific questions I encourage you to make a list and bring it with you on the night I speak at the club. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Happy New Year!

Ben Kueng  
<http://www.benkueng.com>



**YAHARA FISHING CLUB  
KIDS ICE FISHING DAY  
JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Brttingham Park

FREE ice fishing rod/reel combo, bait, and instruction to the first 200 kids 12 and under.

FREE lunch and hot chocolate!

All members are encouraged to pitch in. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to fishing.

**Madison Area Ice Fishing Events**

Jan. 8 Lazy Lake Tournament – Fall River

Jan. 15 Yahara Fishing Club’s Kids Ice Fishing Day – Monona

Jan. 29 Crystal Lake Tournament – Schoeps Cottonwood Club fund raiser

Feb. 5 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Fishing Team’s ICE JAMBO

**If you have any questions on these events, please contact:**

**Duffy Kopf**

**849-7245**

**ljkopf@tds.net**

**Yahara Fishing Club  
Membership Application**

P.O. Box 3271  
Madison, WI 53704

**Annual Dues:**

Individual.....\$25  
Family.....\$35  
Youth Member.....Free  
(with paid membership)

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

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Except for special Summer “On the water” dates, meetings are held at 7:00 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, January 11th**, 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 : Bill Krieger "The Scuba Guy"

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### January Events

January 11th. Club meeting at the VFW hall. Bill Krieger "The Scuba Guy" will discuss ice fishing clothing and proper ice rescue techniques.

January 15th - Kids Ice Fishing Day. All members are encouraged to help. Page 7.

### February Events

February 8th - Monthly club meeting at the VFW hall. Ben Kueng will be speaking about the upcoming Lake Michigan Lake Trout Outing.

February 12th - Lake Michigan Lake Trout Outing. See page 6.

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

President - Charlie Grimm ...249-9694	Director - Tom Wilke .....834-9554	Director - Roger Swenson 752-6825
Vice Pres. - Paul Murunich ...219-4449	Director - Jeff Wydeven .848-4542	Director - Jim Kloth .....635-0116
Secretary - Paul Nichols 309-335-6815	Director - Jim Pankratz ...288-9789	Director - Karlette Schoen 242-8803
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar ...838-9458	Director - Tom Klein ..... 225-4968	

Check out our web page at:  
[www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)



Yahara Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3271  
Madison, WI 53704