



October
2011

Editor: Tom Raschke (tomraschke50@gmail.com) or 608-219-9243

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

All Things Batteries and Other Marine Electronics

Meeting notes by Stan Nichols

How much do you know about your boats electronics? After listening to Greg Fitch, probably not as much as you should. At the September meeting Greg discussed marine electronics with an emphasis on batteries.

Basically there are two electronic systems, controlled by batteries in a boat. One is a starting system to start your boats engine and one is a deep cycle system to run trolling motors. The two systems are quite different. The starting system needs a lot of power for a short period of time (cold cranking amps) to start the engine. The engines alternator recharges it. It has thin plates for high power but won't maintain sustained power needed for a trolling motor. The problem is this battery also runs other electronics on the boat such as lights, depth finders, live-well pumps, etc. So it is possible to run the battery down if you are using these accessories or are making "short" runs with a motor so that the battery isn't recharged.

I can speak from personal experience this summer that somehow my depth finder got accidentally turned on or didn't get turned off the last time I used it. The next time I went to the lake, my battery was deader than a "door-nail". Luckily, I just cranked the boat back on the trailer and went home. If I had gotten the motor started the battery would have probably been "dead" the next time I tried starting it after a short run to the middle of Lake Kegonsa. Either that or I would have had to "run" sixteen times around the lake to recharge the battery.

A starting battery is fine for a recreational boat but for a fishing boat a dual-purpose battery is a much better choice for starting your engine and running the other accessories.

Deep cycle batteries have thicker lead plates for a slow discharge. Here you are looking for a battery with a high amp-hour rating. You probably want a battery with at least a 100 amp-hour rating. Some boats have one, two, three or more 12-volt batteries to run trolling motors. The best trolling motor batteries are called "flooded" batteries. They are a little more difficult to maintain but worth the time and trouble. They are less expensive and are more powerful than AGM batteries such as the "six-pack" Optimax batteries.

With proper maintenance you should be able to get at least four years use out of a marine battery. The first thing is to buy a good quality battery and a little more battery than you think you need. For as little as \$10 you can usually upgrade to a bigger battery. The second thing is to keep the batteries, either starting or trolling at full charge. The best way to do that is an on-board charger that you keep plugged in whenever you aren't using the boat. If you have more than one battery you can get a two or more bank charger. If you are using a bench charger, recharge the batteries when you return from each fishing trip and recharge the batteries at a minimum of every 30 days. Use a 10-amp charger for 24 hours.

The biggest problem for "tired" batteries is the lead plates become "sulfated". Then those areas of the plates won't hold a charge. Keeping the batteries fully charged prevents the sulfating process.

Greg had a lot to talk about it an hour just about batteries but he also gave some "words of wisdom" on other marine electronics. The most general piece of advice was that you don't need all the "high-end" stuff to be a successful angler. Many of the people that buy the high-end stuff don't really know how to use it. It is much more important to

Continued next page

effectively use what you have or can afford.

With that said, a couple of trends in sonar units are side imaging and down imaging. Side imaging scans from 85 degrees to the horizontal and down imaging scans the bottom. Both types use much higher power and frequency than standard sonar. They image things very quickly and will probably replace the old 2-d sonars. For good sonars you are looking for peak-to-peak power-the larger the better.

GPS is another technology that has been around for years but it is to the point where some anglers don't use sonar anymore. They have all their waypoints where they've caught or seen fish and just drive to them. Minkota has trolling motors that will follow GPS tracks. If you have a relatively recent GPS unit with downloadable chips it is important to keep them updated. These units are computers and programs need refinement. Go to the manufactures website for updates. You should update these units at least once year.

I always thought the electronics manufactures were "missing the boat" by not developing a unit with a split screen- half with a sonar and half with television. Then at least you could watch some fishing shows when things got boring on the lake or especially on the ice. With smart phones even that idea probably isn't worth much anymore. Being more used to looking over the side of the boat or fishing from a canoe, I'm not sure I got every thing that Greg said. However Greg will be giving seminars at the

Fishing Expo in February and has a business in Oregon, Wisconsin. He can answer your electronics questions, rig your boat, or give you a good deal on batteries and other marine electronics.

Greg can be contacted at:

Phone: 608-575-7764

Xtreme Custom Marine.com

Greg @Xtreme Custom Marine.com

Devil's Lake North Dakota trip?

(For Discussion at the October Meeting)

I would be glad to help anyone who wants to go to Devils Lake. The biggest issue with Devils Lake is lodging especially if you want someplace private and on the water. With it growing a lot every winter anyone who was on the water is in trouble or underwater. There are exceptions. A lot of places you stay have you trailer your boat up next to the lodging. Not a bad thing because of the high winds that sometimes come into play. There are a couple of campgrounds and a couple resorts which also have boat rental available. There are a few private places like we use where we rent a cabin. I have found the prices out there on most things to be less expensive than the Madison area. The people are very friendly and if you really want to go all out the Lakota Sioux have a Casino on the lake with a nicely protected and secured harbor and the food is reasonable. They are counting on you spending money gambling. It's not Ho Chunk but it's not too bad and its right on the water. Keep in mind I am not much of a gambler but my Dad and Step brother stayed there this year because they had a little more time to work with than I did so they were out for 9 days.

I know a guy who runs a bait shop and guides on the lake and if there were enough interest and he was approached and we took care of him a little bit I bet he would be willing to set aside a couple hours to talk with everyone who comes in and give a little talk about where the fishing activity is and the patterns that are working. If he got a guide trip or two out of it he would be pretty happy I bet. That is all just a hunch but times are tight and it might work out for the club.

If you want to talk some night or a couple of you want to talk about timing and locations to think about for lodging let me know and I can dig up a couple maps and we can get together. I can tell you what I have experienced. I have been booking the place we stay two years in advance now to make sure I get the week I want.

Chris Spierings




Mendota Boat Works
5380 Farmco Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
www.mendotaboatworks.com

ph: 608 - 245 - 9041
fax: 608 - 249 - 9396

Michael Vierthaler
Owner

Quality fiberglass, gel coat repairs,
Yacht Chartering and Bottom Painting

My First Muskie

By Jim Pankratz

Growing up in Marshfield, WI posed some challenges for fishing seeing how it's the only city in the state which is not on a body of water. My dad however was a huge sportsman which simply meant that we would have to travel to fish. Locally we would drive to the Little Eau Pleine river, the Big Eau Pleine Flowage, and Nekoosa below the dam on the Wisconsin river to fish from shore for walleyes, panfish, and the accidental northern. The highlight of the year though was to go up north for a week at my great uncle's cabin in Philips on the Solberg flowage and actually fish from a boat. We would catch tons of crappies, rockbass, bluegills, and walleyes. Well one year when I was in 6th grade my dad hooked into a mid 40's Muskie with his ultralight on a jig and twister. He somehow lip hooked the fish and played it out for 20-30 minutes before I got a shot at netting it at the boat. Of course when I did the net was too small and could only fit half of the fish in it. I can still see it in slow motion lifting it up into the boat, dropping it on the bench seat, and watching the huge Muskie flop back into the water never to be seen again. It was a great story but until this year my dad has always never let me forget it.



Now fast forward to this July when I planned a family fishing trip to Eagle Lake, Ontario. It had been 16 years since the last time I was in Canada, and 30 years since I lost that Muskie for my dad. I was very excited about the fishing and the "generations" trip we had planned. I brought my dad, my brother, his 8 year old daughter and 10 year old son, and my 9 year old twin son and daughter. The fishing was

great and way better than I remembered and this time I was a much better fisherman. After having a perfect first day with all the kids catching their first walleyes and northern I literally had a huge smile on my face and looked up to the heavens to thank God for this trip. That evening after dinner we headed back to a bay that we did well in and I had a fish on my third cast but this time something was very different. My drag immediately started screaming and a huge Muskie jumped out of the water. I only had 12 lb Fireline on with a 20lb fluorocarbon leader and thought for sure that I would lose it. I freaked out and was so nervous that my brother in the other boat yelled at me to calm down. I told my son to grab the camera and take a picture because I knew we were never going to get this in the boat! But fate was working in my favor and after about 10-15 minutes the big fish was tired of pulling the boat around and I somehow got him close enough.

Now my dad has my net and he scoops the fish in which was too big for the net, lifts him into the boat...and then the net bends, the fish flops, spits my Rapala, and falls back into the water ready to swim away. Time was frozen though and I grabbed the bent net from my dad and stuck it into the water. The stunned Muskie tried to swim away

Continued next page

FINICKI AUTO ELECTRIC
Marine, ATV and PowerSports

Starters
Generators
Batteries

Alternators
Pump Motors
Installations
Pick-Ups

Deliveries

3127 E. Washington Ave. Service:
Madison, WI 53704 (608) 243-8730


Toll Free 1-866-243-8730

 **Mendota Boat Works**
 5380 Farmco Dr.
 Madison, WI 53704
 www.mendotaboatworks.com

ph: 608 - 245 - 9041
 fax: 608 - 249 - 9396

Michael Vierthaler
 Owner

Quality fiberglass, gel coat repairs,
 Yacht Chartering and Bottom Painting



V.F.W. Post 1318
 133 Lakeside St.
 Madison 53715
 608-255-5955

Sturgeon Outing Report

but I grabbed the rim of the net with both hands and pulled him into the boat. Well then all the hooting and hollering began. My son & nephew were even more excited but also a little scared by its size. We unraveled my tape measure but it only went to 3 feet so my son & I eyeballed where it went to and then measured the rest with the total about 42 inches. This was a quick nervous job though with my son measuring and me trying to hold the fish down. I also had a scale but simply forgot to weigh it in the excitement. Later showing pictures at our lodge a guide and others in camp said the fish looked more like 44-45 but I didn't care because it was my first Muskie. Another hour later I caught a 20 inch walleye and had a different big Muskie come after it. My son & nephew saw it and then my son just stopped fishing because he didn't want to get something that big on his pole.

The best part of the story telling though was looking at my dad and being able to say "you just couldn't get over me losing your big Muskie all those years ago!"

We again enjoyed nice weather, fine company, and caught fish. It was a smaller group than last year but all had a great time exchanging stories, eating food, and trying to avoid the sheepshead. Participants were Jesse Tougas, Tom Klein, Roger Swenson, Garrett Klein (Tom's son), and Rob Hart (Tom's son-in-law). The variety of species available is amazing – besides Sturgeon, we caught Sheepshead (of course), Bluegill, Sunnies, Sauger, White Bass, Perch, Redhorse, and suckers. Jesse was hot on Friday catching 3 Sturgeon, the largest 43", plus 2 big cats and numerous other species. Roger was right behind him w/ 2 Sturgeon for the trip, largest 43 1/2 inches, plus cats and other species. Garrett caught an 11th hour Sturgeon Sunday am, about 43". Tom and Rob had to settle for Cats and other species. Of interest was a tagged Sturgeon w/ a MN. DNR tag which Jesse caught and recorded the number before releasing the fish. We will hopefully do it again next year



Garrett's sturgeon



Tom Klein

Tom Klein

For Sale

15 HP Johnson, 14ft Herters Alaskan boat with Shoreline trailer. Good condition, kept inside. Best offer. Please contact Jack Hurst at 249-4720

Tune Into
"Outdoor Horizons"
Saturdays at 8:00 AM
Radio WTDY 1670 AM



Hosts Gary Engberg,
Tony Puccio, Wally Banfi



Live Bait
Tackle
Guide Service
Fishing Info

Archery Supplies
Bow's & Arrows
Ice Shack Rentals

**D & S Bait,
Tackle & Archery, LLC**

Gene & Sandy Dellinger
1411 Northport Drive
Madison, WI 53704

Store: 608-241-4225
Fishing Hotline: 608-244-3474
BIG-FISH

www.dsbait.com

Pharo Marine Inc
Hwy 113 and River Road in Waunakee
849-5950

MERCURY
The Water Calls

Pontoons Deckboats
Mercury Mariner Force
Motoriser OMC

"We excell in service"

**MAZANET
MARINA**
"OUR 40th YEAR ON LAKE MENDOTA"
SALES & SERVICE

Ranger *HiroCraft*
EVINRUDE **STINGRAY**

- * WINTER STORAGE
- * 300 WET & DRY SLIPS
- * GAS DOCK - BEER & ICE
- * BOAT RENTAL * LIVE BAIT

WWW.MAZANETMARINA.COM
249-9316
5320 BLUE BILL PARK DR

Notes From the Prez

Well, boys and girls, tomorrow I head west, along with my wife Doreen, for a little road trip. Yep, off to the Black Hills we are. Nice time of year to travel we figured.....even though they are calling for some warm weather out there for a few days. Even in October, 75 degrees is pretty nice. Do a little sight-seeing, hiking, fishing. And a whole lot more. Doreen wants to go horse-back riding, take the 1880's train to Keystone, and pan for gold. Maybe we'll strike the motherlode!

I have almost as much fun planning a trip, as I do actually taking it! We have been checking out websites and maps for a month or more. If we even get to half the places we plan to, we'll be couple of busy beavers! For 5 days next week, we rented a cabin in the hills.....very secluded.....and no TV!! This for the week when the Badgers play Nebraska, the Packers try to go 4-0, and the Brewers are in the playoffs! What was I thinkin'? Perhaps you thought that the president of your fishing club was a pretty bright guy? Well think again my friends! However, after 40 years of marriage, a certain someone knows my every move. She even said....."I suppose we'll have to find a nice sports bar in Custer or Hill City with some kind of Octoberfest on tap." Yeah baby, now we're talkin'!

And by the time we get back, it will be very near time for our October meeting. Our old buddy Rick Krueger will be our guest

speaker.....along with his very unique perspective (underwater.....seeing everything we can't) on our area lakes. This would be a good time to thank Rick for all the work he has done to help our club, as well as the Sheriff's Dept. and the DNR and the Madison Fishing Expo. Talk about good stuff.....if you've seen Rick's presentation before I'm sure you'll be in attendance. And if you have not.....don't miss it! A great opportunity to bring a friend to the club meeting for the first time.....

While we are handing out thank you's..... ..a big round of applause for the crew that worked the fish fry Sept. 16 at St. Paul's.....wow, what a great job. I'm still full from that meal! And thank you to St. Paul's and Thrivent Financial. What a great partnership and fund raiser for the club.

So, I hope to see you all on Oct. 11.....lots of things to talk about.....nomination for the Board of Directors.....fishing reports (just how big was that sturgeon?).....outings for October and November.....and maybe one on the ice for good measure. Please don't forget to return any videos still out.....and bring in a few outdoor magazines to exchange.....and fill out a club survey.....

So, I better go check the oil, wash the windshield, and pack a few rods! Go west old man! Where the buffalo roam! I'll still be at 220-8934.....if the hills aren't to steep.

Charlie



Dorn Hardware and Sporting Goods
"The Fishing & Hunting Specialists"

Professional Help **ELECTRONICS**
 Inland and Lakes **MICHIGAN**
Tackle and Accessories
Guns Ammunition Archery

Competitive Prices at
 4 Locations
 Northgate Oregon
 Monona
 Brookwood

OFFICES AND BOAT SLIPS

INTERLAKE BOATYARD

Located Between Lakes Monona and Waubesa

Call George Kinsler
223-1961

Full Color Copies (608) 257-8900

PRINTING & COPYING, LLC

131 West Wilcox Street, #P500 Madison, WI 53703

One- and Two-Color Printing
 Copying up to 36" x 48"
 Large Format Posters

Posters, Banners, Wide Format for Trade Shows, displays, pallets, advertisements, etc.

Terry Balding & Associates
 Professional Money Management
 Financial Planning

515 W. Main Street
 Sun Prairie, WI 53580
 (608) 837-8089
 1-800-727-3030
 FAX (608) 835-6482
 Email: tbalding@trp.net
 www.plannr.com

"Your Partner in Success"
Terry Balding CFP

Shawnee Chase Wealth Services, Inc., One Delta Court, Madison, WI 53719
 800.274.7711 • Member NASD/SIPC

2410 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison, WI 53716
 Tel: 608-222-5591 Fax: 608-222-3644 Cell: 608-604-8970

www.dwyermarine.com

Upcoming Fishing Club Outings

Clements Fishing Barge at Genoa on the Mississippi, Oct 19 and 22.

PLEASE NOTE DATES, WE HAVE ADDED ONE MORE DAY ON A SATURDAY. SO THE OUTING DATES ARE OCT 19, A WEDNESDAY AND OCT. 22, A SATURDAY. This will be a one day trip on. We will car pool, no boat necessary. Target species are Walleye, Sauger, Perch and whatever else the river provides. Plan on leaving Madison at 4:45 am, arriving at the barge pick up point just before 7 am which is the first boat to the barge. The pick up boat comes every 30 minutes and the charge for the day is \$16.00. Bring rods and tackle, it will be mostly bottom fishing w/ live bait (red worms for Perch, crawlers and/or minnows for other species). Bait is available in Genoa. You may want to throw some cranks for Northern Pike. There is food and beverages on the barge, or you can bring your own. I will have an update at the Oct. 11th YFC meeting on action at Genoa to narrow down besttackle to bring. We will also have an update for the Saturday folks as to what was working on the Wed. trip. You can also check at www.clements fishing.com. The departure place in Madison will be determined by which folks want to car pool.

Lake Mendota Walleye. After two outings with poor success, we will give this one more shot and hopefully hit the bite. This is a fun evening outing off the Tenny breakwater. The date will be Thursday, Nov. 10th., starting about 5 pm. We will be grilling hot dogs and (Brats?), plus baked beans and maybe chili. Karlette Shoen will be in charge of food. Beverages are BYO.

Nov. 29th – hunt for big Pike on Lake Mendota out of Marshall Park launch. Tom Wilke will be the guide. More detail to follow.

Ice fishing hunt for Perch on Lake Monona. Our own John Kanvik will be guiding and we need as many ATV's as possible to haul members to various locations on the lake. John has been quite successful at catching these yummys. Early to mid January date to be announced.

February Whitefish outing. Icing a bunch of Whitefish should be a ball. Our own Guy Pappa will be our guide as he is familiar with the waters of Green Bay and has been quite

2 For One Fishing Workshop

WHAT: Post-convention fishing workshop sponsored by Midwest AAHPERD and WHPE

WHERE: Chula Vista Resort, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells

WHEN: October 28, 2011

WHO: Workshop lead by long time WHPE member Duffy Kopf (Pure Fishing Ambassador, Pro Staff Jiffy Ice Drills, Pro Staff JB Lures, Pro Staff Dwyer Marine)

WHY: The 1st half of the workshop will feature "How To Incorporate Fishing Into Your Curriculum" and then learn "Muskie Fishing Basics" during the second half.

COST: Registration is \$25 -- information will be included with the normal WHPE convention registration materials (www.whpe.us). All attendees will receive at east one door prize.

RAFFLE NEWS FOR THE OCT. 11th MEETING

WOW, another \$50 gift Certificate - this from Dorn Hardware. We will also have some YFC logo wear - hats and a shirt(this will be a voucher so you can choose size and color). And more good stuff -Rapala spin combo, Cabela soft side tackle storage bag, spin reel from Fish-A-Way, nice selection of trolling harnesses, Muskie baits, Fisherman's barometer, lots of plastics, and more! Buy those tickets and win!



September 9/22 pic of Duffy. He was on Lake Mendota with Brad Czebotar .

**Yahara Fishing Club
Membership Application**

P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704

Annual Dues:

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

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

Email _____ @ _____

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.

*An Organization to Educate, Protect and Propagate the Interests of All Fishermen in the Yahara Basin Area
Including all of Madison's Lakes*

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, October 11th**, at the VFW Hall

The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Next Speaker: Rick Krueger - Underwater Pictures

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October Events

October 11th. Regular monthly meeting at the VFW hall. Rick Krueger (slide show of Madison chain underwater photos.)

October 19 and 22. Clements Fishing Barge at Genoa on the Mississippi. See notes page 6.

November Events

November 8th Phil Moy will speak on Asian Carp / Madison chain invasive species.

November 10th Lake Mendota Walleye. See notes page 6.

November 29th Pike on Lake Mendota out of Marshall Park launch.

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

President - Charlie Grimm ...249-9694	Director - Tom Wilke834-9554	Director - Roger Swenson 752-6825
Vice Pres. - Don Hammes ... 836-1205	Director - Jeff Wydeven 848-4542	Director - Jim Kloth635-0116
Secretary - Paul Nichols 309-335-6815	Director - Jesse Tougas ..831-3151	Director - Karlette Schoen 242-8803
Treasurer - Dennis Puser ..576-0929	Director - Tom Klein 225-4968	

Check out our web page at:
www.yaharafishingclub.org



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