

Lake Roosevelt Walleye Club

Home of the Annual
Washington State Governor's Cup
Walleye Tournament



Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 7 P.M.

Senior Center, Kettle Falls

President: Marty Martin 680-3720 Vice-president: Jim Meskan 738-4386

Secretary: Bill Driver 684-5381 Treasurer: Willie Martin 680-3720

Board Members:

Ken House 738-2493

George Brazee 684-3533

Bob Henderson 684-2215

Tournament Director: Marty Martin 680-3720

Newsletter: Jim Gleaton 935-4580

The club's web site is located at: lakerooseveltwalleyeclub.com

Club Meeting: (NEXT MEETING – December 8th)

It was decided that we needed a December meeting to wind up 2011 and talk about what we want to accomplish in 2012 with both the club and tournament.

CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER:

On December 2, the 2011 Walleye Club Christmas Party was held at the Eagles Lodge in Colville; all went well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The gift exchange was fun and we didn't have to clean tables or wash dishes!

CLUB ELECTIONS:

Results were announced at the Christmas Dinner. Let's welcome the new officers: Jim Meskan, President; Gerry Eickerman, Vice President; Doug Eastwood, Secretary; Doug Unzeitig, Treasurer and Fred Young as our new Board Member.

JIM THARP:

I remembered Jim talking about a great fishing trip he took about a year ago to the area around Brewster to fish for Salmon and Steelhead so I asked him to give me some details incase other club members were thinking about such a trip (I know this is a "Walleye Club" news letter – but we are fishermen). Here is what he sent; Jim went with Reel-lentless Guide Service LLC, out of Brewster, I remember him telling about the good time he had. Here are some details on contact points and places to stay. The web site is info@reellentlessguideservice.com phone number is (509) 449-0843. I talked with Ron Oules (the owner) on Saturday the 3rd and he was on the river fishing. I asked him how fishing was and he said they have been catching about 10 fish a day with 2 limits of keepers each day. He said business is a little slow right now so it would be a great time to head over for some solid fishing. The Motel in Pateros is the Lake Shore Motor Inn, and there are motels in Brewster. Sounds like a great early Christmas present for you.

GUEST ARTICLE:

We have also been hearing some concerns about northern pike entering Lake Roosevelt, and it just happens that I was working with a fellow out of Colville with a "Muskie Club Hat" on. So after getting the work done we talked about his favorite subject and ours "Fishing". Turns out he knows a lot about Muskies and Pike, so I asked him to write a couple of articles for the Club newsletter. Chuck is a Forester, who has worked for Dept. of Natural Resources, and is now retired from Stimpson Lumber at Arden. Next months article is on Pike.

Ultimate Fishing Objects (UFOs) By Chuck Gades

Two invasive fish species have invaded Washington; one welcomed and one un-welcomed by the WDFW. Tiger muskies and northern pike have entered our waters in NE Washington. The welcome guest is the Tiger muskie. The WDFW imports true muskie eggs from Minnesota and crosses them with northern pike milt for a sterile hybrid cross renamed “tiger muskie” since the resulting cross displays distinct vertical bars on the side of the fish resembling tiger stripes. Several lakes in eastern Washington have suffered from an overabundance of scrap fish that out-compete the preferred game fish for their food supply and also directly prey upon the game fish in many instances. Many studies and experience in the mid-west have shown that tiger muskies nearly exclusively prefer soft-finned fish such as suckers and squaw fish (northern pike minnow). Therefore, the WDFW began stocking tiger muskies in 7 Washington lakes approximately 12 years ago. Four were chosen because of scrap fish problems in eastern Washington—Curlaw, Newman, Silver (near Medical Lake) and Evergreen (central Wash.). The sterile tiger muskie is a workable solution for the department since the predator numbers can be controlled. Each year about 200-700 baby (foot long) tiger muskies are supplemented into those lakes, depending on the lake size. Curlaw lake, for instance, had been overrun with squaw fish by the 1990s depressing trout production to the extent that resort owners were paying kids a bounty for killing every one they caught. When I first started fishing for tigers at Curlaw about 2003, I rarely saw nets coming out capturing a caught trout. Today good catches are common during the day and off docks day and night. Kids fishing off docks during the daytime are seen lifting up stringers of trout. Both the tiger muskies and the net pen program have teamed up to restore the trout fishery at Curlaw. That same process is following at Silver and Newman lakes.

A tiger muskie must be in excess of 50 inches to be legally kept. They are not in our waters for food. They are there to control scrap fish and provide fishing excitement. The bigger the muskie, the bigger the scrap fish they eliminate, thus taking away the productive scrap fish breeders. So we don't want to interrupt that process by harvesting them before they can effectively do their job. The expense and effort to get them to the adult stage does not warrant pre-mature taking of this excellent game fish. At 50 inches they are nearing the end of their 10-12 year life-span and harvesting a trophy at that point is a reasonable option. But releasing them, even at that large size, is encouraged by the three muskie chapters in Washington State so other anglers can also enjoy the thrill of what you have been given an opportunity to enjoy. The thrill of a 10-15 minute fight trying to get a large muskie to the boat and into the net is an exciting experience hard to match with other fish species in NE Washington. Come prepared with steelhead type gear, steel leaders, and a variety of large spoons, spinners, and plugs. They are fickle biters at times so be prepared to spend some time before success strikes.

There are four ways to inadvertently kill a muskie: (1) Stress—fight him too long with undersized equipment, (2) Suffocate—having him out of the water for more than 2 minutes, (3) Drop—they cannot stand the impact, (4) Hang for pictures or weighing—their heavy body weight results in damage to their vertebrae and breathing components. That's a BIG NO NO. Next issue.....the un-welcome cousin.

BOAT LAUNCHES:

This month I am featuring the next launch south of Northport, China Bend. The Northport launch is the furthest launch north at the upper end of Lake Roosevelt, it provides access above The Dalles. China bend is the first launch south of The Dalles; it is about 21 miles north of Kettle Falls on highway 25. This launch is very popular because it provides access to the excellent walleye fishing in the area just below The Dalles. The road and parking area is paved, with a good set of docks to moor your boat while you park your vehicle. The Parking is just about 100 feet above the launch and provides enough striped parking spots for about 15 vehicles. There is no camping at the launch site. The minimum Lake level for use of this launch is 1277 feet so with “normal pool” elevation of 1289, if the Lake is down 12 feet this launch is not usable.



CHINA BEND LAUNCH



LAUNCH HAS A GOOD DOCK, A LIGHT FOR LATE RETURNS,
BUT NO FISH CLEANING STATION.

I heard of a couple of fisherman that put in this last spring at the Northport Launch and came south to fish below The Dalles. I guess waves and whirl pools going through The Dalles were so bad that they decided to go down to China Bend and tie their boat up. They then hitchhiked back to Northport to get their vehicle to avoid trying to go back through The Dalles. I know I have seen some large whirlpools at The Dalles and with the large runoff we had this spring I can only imagine what they went through, I would have done the same thing.

TAKE A KID FISHING AND HIS GRANDPA TOO!