



# January 2009

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## Tip-Up Rigging for Pike and Walleyes

*By Gary Engberg*

The winter ice fishing season is finally upon us and it's time to get out those tip-ups and make sure that they are ready for the winter. I use and recommend that you buy quality tip-ups because they will last and perform much better than cheaper tip-ups. Two of the better brands that are available are the Beaver Dam and the Frabill tip-ups. One of the main reasons for using a better tip-up is that the better ones can be lubricated every season. The Beaver Dam's can be unsoldered, lubricated with a product called Blue Lube, and re-soldered. The Frabill tip-up can be disassembled and also lubricated. This allows your spool to spin better and give a running fish the line it may need. Cheaper tip-ups cannot be lubricated and can freeze up on you in extreme weather.

Now, that you have a couple of quality tip-ups here's some suggestions for rigging your tip-ups for pike and for walleye. For big pike, I like to use a braided Dacron line like the Berkley Gorilla brand line in 60 to 80 pound test. This line gives you the diameter that you need to fight fish, especially big pike. Next, get a Quick-Set rig (Bait Rigs or Smith Bait Co. make good ones) that holds up and gives you the chance to release fish. The Bait Rigs Quick Set Rig has a swivel on the end that you tie your line directly to with two single hooks welded together (Britain's Partridge Hooks are used). The one large hook is put into the bait (Golden shiners, shiners, and smelt) and the small hook is loose. Lastly, use a rubber core sinker or a couple split shots to keep your bait down at the desired depth you want to target.

Rigging your tip-ups for walleyes is a little different than the pike set-ups. Use slightly smaller diameter line (Berkley Gorilla Braid works) in 40 pound test and even a higher test is o.k. because you're going to use a fluorocarbon leader in front of the braid. This diameter line is easy on your hands and helps again to fight the fish. Tie a swivel on the end of the Gorilla line and then tie on about 30 to 36" inches of Vanish fluorocarbon to a #8 treble hook. Try using the "new" red hooks on one of your tip-ups because some people are swearing by them. Again, you should use a split shot or two to keep your bait down and put the shot about 15" up from the treble hook. For walleyes, I like to use 3 to 5" inch fathead minnows, if I can find them that big this time of year. Hook the minnows through the back just behind the fathead's dorsal fin.



Gunnar Peterson

*Continued next page*

Tip-up rigging, continued.

Here are some ideas of good areas to put your tip-ups near;

1) the greenest weeds you can find. Pike cruise these shallows regularly, but walleyes will even bury themselves in the weeds waiting to ambush their prey.

2) Drill all your holes first over a large area, so you don't continually spook fish by drilling new holes. Space your tip-ups along the first break and try to cover different depths in the water column.

3) Concentrate on depths from 5 to 15 feet for pike and have a few deeper rigs set up for walleyes. If you can find rock bars scatter your tip-ups around the bar from the shallowest top of the bar to the deeper sides.

Start with good equipment and go from there. The new electronic flashers are great and really help when fishing deeper water for perch and or suspended fish. If fishing 10 feet and under, you can get by without using fancy electronics. A good lake map can help you improve your fishing on any lake, especially if the lake is new to you. You can mark a map in advance of fishing and zero in on the lake's hot-spots before venturing out on the ice. Try to do as much research on any lake before venturing out to fish. Most importantly, safety first!

Information; Wilderness Fish and Game (608) 643-2433

D and S Bait (608) 241-4225

Ron Barefield (608)-838-8756.

Wally Banfi (608)-644-9823.

Gary Engberg (608) 795-4208

Phone & Fax 608 795-4208

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## New Meeting Schedule – What Do You Think?

Just a heads up from the Board that we are thinking of possibly moving the General Membership Meetings up so we can get home a little earlier on meeting nights. We know there is no perfect meeting time, and maybe the current schedule works the best for most of the people. The Board wants to know what you think. You will have the opportunity to express your opinion on this matter at the January meeting. Please attend so that the Board can get a good handle on what the membership wants.

If you can't be at the January meeting, please let one of the Board Members know so he can throw your idea into the mix.

Thanks,  
YFC Board of Directors

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Duffy

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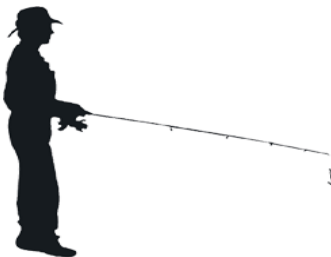
# Kids Ice Fishing Day 2009

*Saturday, January 17, 2008 9am – noon*

Sponsored by the Yahara Fishing Club  
[www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)

The time has come to get back out on hard water and with that note we (Duffy) were able to secure a financial backer for our kids ice fishing day. The person who donated the money for the event prefers to remain anonymous, which is fine but we certainly owe him and whoever is responsible for making safe ice again this year a huge THANK YOU! As most of you know, prior to last year we struggled with unsafe ice conditions that made it impossible to put the event on. This year has been better than normal as far as that goes though. At any rate, the event will take place on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Brittingham park shelter on Monona Bay from 9:00 AM to Noon. The club will provide rigged jig poles for the kids to keep, bait, on ice fishing instructions, and refreshments after the kids are tired of fishing. Here is where we need some help: I can use every single body who has ever held a jig pole as an on ice fishing instructor / guide. I can also use a couple of folks to help pass out equipment and point the kids onto the ice. I can also use a couple of folks to cook & serve hot dogs and hot chocolate. If anyone has a small portable generator to use for keeping a couple of Nesco roasters going please let me know at the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. I hope many of you can help out that day. Please plan to be there by 7:00 AM to get things organized and set up. Also, please remember it is winter so dress accordingly. Feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions you may have about the fishing day at (608)849-3714. Thanks in advance for your help.

**Rick Seeger**



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## January Club Meeting

We will be having an in-house panel discussion on ice fishing for the January meeting. As a non-ice fisherman, I will ask questions to the panelists.

Clay Russell

### DONATIONS

A number of years ago the Yahara Fishing Club established a 501 © (3) charities account that allows the club to receive donations and gifts that are tax deductible. So far this year we have been fortunate in receiving three sizable donations:

\$100 from Sedona Associates (Paul Marunich),  
\$750 from Rick and Linda Lane and  
\$2000 from an anonymous donor.

Even with these generous donations, the club still needs your help in meeting its budgetary goals. You can help by making a contribution of any amount to the Yahara Fishing Club Charities. Remember, your contribution is tax-deductible.

The charities account supports club events like "Kids Ice Fishing" and the summer "Kids Fishing Day." The charities account has also been used to make donations to other organizations that have a fishing and/or environmental focus.

### DUES and NEWSLETTER

Yes it is that time again to renew your membership in the Yahara Fishing Club. Your annual dues are used to help support the operations of the club such as the printing and distribution of the newsletter. Dues can be paid at the monthly meetings or mailed to the club's post office box address.

Please Note: Members who have not paid their dues by the end of February will stop receiving the monthly newsletter starting with March.

### STORAGE FACILITY

The Yahara Fishing Club is looking for ways to reduce its operational costs. Currently the club rents a storage unit to house an 8' x 8' trailer that is used to transport the cooker/fryers and other smaller miscellaneous items. The cooker/fryers are used approximately three to four times a year.

If you have sufficient storage space available and are willing to house the above items, please contact one of the club's board of directors.

Brad Czebotar

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## Notes From the Prez

I am sitting here feeling pretty good about what happened last week. The Board had informed the membership at the November meeting that we may have to scale back on our Kids Ice Fishing Day (because of our finances). Well, an individual from Waunakee has stepped forward and wrote us a big check to cover the costs. Now it is full speed ahead on this important event. Please offer your help to Rick Seeger who is in charge of putting this on. The expectation is that YFC members show up to help with this. Last year it was cold, but we had great participation. It ended up with a lot of fish caught and it was a wonderful day. January 17th is the day. Look for the details on this event in this newsletter. I will be out drilling holes before 7:00am. I have two drills, so if anyone wants to help, just let me know. I am looking forward to this event. It is vital that we get kids outside and involved in fishing!

I have a tournament coming up this weekend and there are a variety of fisheries or tournaments coming up throughout the season. If you are interested in any of these, please let me know and I will give you the details. I don't want to use up space in my column for the work I do for Jiffy.

Locally, the Crystal Lake Ice Fisheree is Sat., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at Schoepp's Resort off.

Highway 60 on Schoepp Rd. between Sauk City and Lodi. Details will show up in this newsletter so keep your eyes open. They will be raising money for a variety of good causes. You will also have the opportunity to help the UW-Whitewater Fishing Team raise money by participating in their Ice Jambo 2009. Details for this will also show up elsewhere in the newsletter.

Although the General Membership Meeting was cancelled in Dec., the Board still met and had to make many tough budget decisions. We tried not to affect our events, so hopefully most of you won't even notice. Your Board has been working very hard to make good choices for the membership.

Know how to build or maintain a website? We need someone to help to maintain and improve what we have. If you would like to volunteer, let me or one

of the Board members know. If you have any ideas on how to improve the website, please let me know.

Clay Russell has informed me that the speaker for the January meeting is actually going to be a panel discussion on Ice Fishing In The Madison Area. This is something new and really should bring with it a lot of information for our membership. I am looking forward to it. Thank Clay for coming up with a great idea.

Remember that our February meeting will be Auction Night. Hopefully Col. Charlie Grimm will be available to help our club raise some money. If you have food left over from the December meeting (and it hasn't spoiled), please bring it along so we have something to munch on.

The Board will be voting on the proposed changes to our By-Laws and Rules. If they approve these, the summary will appear in the Feb. newsletter and we will vote on them at the March meeting. This gives you plenty of time to digest the information. Be at the March meeting to vote on this.

The Pete Froland Award will be presented by Jack Hurst to a very deserving winner. A nice plaque will be given in recognition of quality, long-term service to our club.

The Fishing Contest award winners will be raking in the cash at the January meeting as Rick Lane will be making the awards.

DUES were due at the December meeting. If you haven't paid your dues yet, bring cash or a check to the January meeting to get this responsibility taken care of. We are very dependant on our membership following through with this. I hate to sound negative, but if your dues are not paid promptly, you will not be considered a member of our club and you will not get a newsletter or have any of the benefits of being a member. \$25 for a single membership and \$35 for a family.

YFC members should be aware that the Board is taking a long, hard look at our June Kids Fishing Day. After this winter, I don't think there will be many fish in the pond behind the Alliant Center. The event



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would have to include stocking the pond. Kurt Welke and the DNR have done a great job in the past of getting fish into the pond. As a result of VHS, this is no longer possible. It makes no sense to have a fishing day if there are no fish. We discussed other locations, but none of them beats the Alliant Center.

You need to take notice that the membership will be asked if they would prefer an earlier starting time for our General Meeting. If you have a preference, please be there to voice your opinion. Keep in mind that if the membership wants an earlier starting time, the Board will have to have their meeting on a different night.

One of the casualties of our budget cutting is our membership in the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. I talked to George Meyer who heads this organization and he indicated to me that they will keep us on as an associate member for a year so we can re-evaluate where we are at financially.

I don't know about you, but I really like getting our newsletter online. This is going to save our club a lot of money, plus saving the editions on the computer saves a lot of space. If you presently don't get the newsletter via email, and you would like to do so, please let one of the Board members know. Thank Jim Pankratz for all of his work.

Speaking of work, the Madison Fishing Expo is coming up sooner than you think. Be prepared to sign up at the January meeting. We were a little embarrassed as a club two years ago as a result of not having enough people to get the work done. Last year the club did a magnificent job filling all of the slots and getting the exhibitors all set up. We will need people to help on Friday morning with the exhibitors, need people to work the booth and people to sell tickets for the Expo. I believe we will also have a representative of the Expo speak to our membership at the January meeting. Bring a pen or pencil and be prepared. We raise a fair amount of money and get new members from this event. We become very visible to members of the fishing community in southern Wisconsin and beyond. You

have the opportunity to make a non-monetary contribution to your club.

One final thought. This coming year is going to be a challenge for our club. When presented with a challenge, an individual or a group can face the challenge or run away. Which one of these choices will you make?

I truly hope that I will see you at the January meeting.

Fishing Season Never Closes,  
Duffy Kopf – Prez  
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There are really a lot of bargain-priced fishing boats for sale on Craig's list. (link below) This is probably the best time in years to pick up a good used fishing boat. I'm guessing that the marinas and boat shops that advertise on this newsletter are also offering great deals.

<http://www.craigslist.org>

**The Cottonwood Club of Schoepp's Resort Presents  
Crystal Lake Ice Fisheree  
Saturday, January 31 2009  
Schoepp's Resort  
Off Highway 60 on Schoepp Rd. between Sauk City and Lodi**

**Registration 7-10 am      \$10 registration fee  
Weigh In      2:00 pm**

**One bass by weight  
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**Proceeds benefit Sauk Prairie area charities and organizations. Last year's proceeds were donated to the Lodi area food pantry, EMS, boy/girls club, Fire Dept, and Crystal Lake Shoreline Restoration.**

**For more information contact Dave Frosch 608-219-5694**

## Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 3271  
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Family.....\$35  
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(with paid membership)

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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, January 13th**, 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.**

Speaker: Scott Hogland

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### January Events

January 13th<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall  
Ice fishing discussion. See page 4.

January 17th, 2008 Kids Ice Fishing Day 2009

Brittingham park shelter on Monona Bay from 9:00 AM to Noon. (Saturday)

### February Events

February 10th<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting @7:30 pm, Lakeside VFW Hall  
Auction Night. Hopefully Col. Charlie Grimm

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

President - Larry Kopf.....849-7245  
Vice President - Paul Marunich...219-4449  
Secretary - Rick Seeger.....849-3714  
Treasurer - Brad Czebotar .....838-9458

Director - Rick Lane .....873-5228  
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Check out our web page at:  
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Yahara Fishing Club  
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