



January

2013

Editors: Tom Raschke ([tomraschke50@gmail.com](mailto:tomraschke50@gmail.com)) or 608-219-9243  
Stan Nichols ([sanicho1@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:sanicho1@facstaff.wisc.edu))

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

## Think Ice

Notes by Stan The Man Nichols

As I write this the lakes haven't frozen over yet. By the time you read it may be they will have. We didn't have a speaker at the December YFC meeting but I went to the D&S ice-fishing seminars. Lets give Gene at D&S a lot of credit for the way he supports angling in the Madison area. I saw many members at the seminars so some of this will be review (repetition is the seat of all learning). Here are some things I learned:

Roman's talk could be condensed into a single sentence that I have used before: "The perch (I've used pheasants, walleyes, you get the idea) are there but you have to work for them." Roman covers a lot of ice and drills a lot of holes. He also has a hover craft (look for a lime green one, it is probably the only one out there, and a red shack) to cover ground and go out on questionable ice conditions. To be successful use a locator and keep moving. His preferred area is the center of the lake, south of Dunn's Bar. He keeps moving and drilling holes, usually at least 10 yards apart until he marks fish. Usually he is fishing in 60 to 70 feet of water. He isn't looking for single fish on the locator but a school of fish at least five feet thick. Perch bite on the way up so keep your bait above the school and keep it moving. Use a rod with a sensitive tip and of course a hanger sinker. It is a more finesse bite than it use to be and Roman isn't sure why. He still likes carrying a Swish Rod. If the fish are biting heavy you can get a Swish Rod up and down faster than the finesse rigs. He uses four-pound test line and he isn't real particular about jig type, color, or size. If you can find the fish, they will usually bite. He baits with a gob of spikes. If you don't have wheels to run all over the lake, Roman suggests the areas off County Park or the Commodore Bar. You can walk to deep water relatively quickly. You don't have to get out early in the morning to catch perch but as been said before, you have to cover water.

Lee Tauchen gave the second seminar titled "Monster Fish Through the Ice". Most of the seminar discussed fishing for northerns on Lake Mendota. Catching a big northern is not a sure thing. Lee said that two winters ago he spent 14 days trying to catch a 40+ inch northern out of Lake Mendota for a television show. He didn't do it, his best was 37 inches. Last winter he was out again and caught one in 10 minutes. Northerns can be anywhere from 2.5 feet to 40 feet deep. On average Lee fishes in about 18 feet of water. Under colder conditions he fishes deeper, under melting conditions-shallower. Fish within about three feet of the bottom. Under colder and deeper conditions he will fish higher, under warmer, shallower conditions, closer to the bottom. Fishing for northerns is a spot on spot location. Look for rocks and weeds. He has caught the biggest pike in weeds or weeds and rock combination. He also thinks fishing on a full moon is best and the three best times of the day are the first 1<sup>1/2</sup> hours in the morning, around noon to 1 p.m. and at last light.

Lee uses three types of gear- traditional tip-ups, Automatic Fisherman, and jigging. He uses a 30-pound fluorocarbon leader, or a 20-pound titanium single strand wire leader, or 18 to 27 pound Sven strand wire leader. You will probably get more bites on the fluorocarbon leader but you have to be more careful landing fish. He uses a single light (#10) treble hooks, a small split shot, and a small swivel above the leader. This rig keeps the bait (minnows) livelier and it is important to use lively bait. He also "conditions" the bait when he gets out on the ice by throwing some snow into the minnow bucket so there isn't as much of a thermal shock when dropping the minnow into icy water. He hooks the minnows behind the dorsal fin. Most of you are familiar with tip-ups. The Automatic Fisherman is the rig we

*Continued on next page*

## Outings update for 2013

used the winter before last to catch trout in the Milwaukee Marina. For jigging, Lee likes a plain lead head jig baited with a shiner. Lee is strong proponents of catch and release for big pike. Pike take the bait instantly so you don't have to let them "run" with the bait to hook them. Take them as soon as you get a tip-up flag. This is another reason that Lee likes the Automatic Fisherman, it sets the hook quickly.

Lee also talked about catching catfish and carp through the ice. He uses the Automatic Fisherman and sets it for a "lighter bite" than for pike. He uses cut bait, one-inch pieces of cut shiners for catfish and two niblets pieces of corn on each hook of the treble for carp. He uses 10-pound mono for leaders when fishing catfish or carp. For carp he uses a drop shot rig with the bait about 18 inches up. For catfish he recommends fishing the North Bay area of Lake Mendota. He hasn't tried fishing for carp in the Madison Lakes, rather in sloughs off the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. If he was going to fish carp in the Madison lakes he would try off the rock bar in Lake Monona. You can see some episodes of cat and carp fishing on You Tube, look for Fishing 365.

Jim Kusuda was supposed to give the third seminar on "How to Catch Bull Bluegills". The seminar was postponed because of the December 20 blizzard. Jim is the YFC speaker in January. He can update us then.

Jan 19th, the YFC derby open to the public on Lake Waubesa.

For the February Whitefish outing in Sturgeon Bay, arrive Friday afternoon/evening on Feb 8 th, depart Sunday after morning fishing. It would be good to confirm your motel reservation at the Comfort Inn, their phone number is 920-743-7846. Guy Ringle has reserved 6 rooms at the special rate of \$58.50 plus tax per night double occupancy but you must ask for the Yahara Fishing Club rate to get that price. If you want to room with someone please make that arrangement on your own. Our YFC Feb meeting is after the outing so I will set up tentative car pooling at the Jan. meeting and confirm later w/ an email follow up.

If you have not done so, please remit your \$40 deposit to the YFC c/o of Dennis Puser at the Jan. meeting so we can secure the number of shacks needed and send off a deposit to Dean at Hooked Up Charters. If you can't make the meeting, please mail your \$40 deposit to Dennis Puser, 7234 Franklin Ave, Middleton, WI 53562. Each heated shack is \$150/day and holds 4 persons and includes transportation out and back, so ideally multiples of 4 persons will be the most economical. The total cost will be split by each day as some folks may not fish on Sunday. Currently I have 12 persons signed up. The comfort Inn has a nice breakfast, For Sat. lunch we will BBQ'd brats simmered in beer and onions out on the ice along w/ beans and condiments, for beverages and snacks, its BYO. Likely we will gather for Sat. night dinner at a local restaurant. For persons arriving Friday before dinner time, we could meet for a local fish fry. More to follow after the Jan meeting.

The rest of early 2013 is as scheduled, March 16 or 23 Clements' barge on the Mississippi, April 7 -14 Reelfoot Lake, TN, May 18th weekend (?) Walleye on Green Bay. Please feel free to contact me w/ any questions or suggestions,

Tom Klein, tom\_klein@dishmail.net, cell 608-225-4968



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### Kids Ice Fishing Day

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013

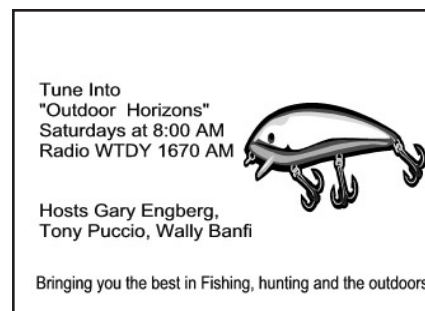
**Where:** Brittingham Bay Shelter - Lake Monona

**What:** First 300 kids 14 and under receive a free ice rod/reel combo and bucket

Free lunch and hot chocolate

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Contact: Jim Pankratz 608-288-9789 jimpannepan@aol.com  
www.yaharafishingclub.org Rob Regal Memorial Fund



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### Need Another Musky Lure?

Tom,

It was nice to meet you and your fellow club members last night, and the food was outstanding! You asked me to drop you an email with some additional information and that you would post this in the newsletter. Thank you in advance for that offer.

Nauti Lures started in 2010, by Jay Barthuly. He remains the designer and developer of the lures, my wife and I became involved in spring of 2012 and the lures I showed last night are our first produced retail lures. We also have developed a line of shirts and hats ( Nauti Goods). The whole theme of our company is fun, with a serious fishing element mixed in. If you visit our web site some of the edgy-ness shows through. For any members of the club that would like to purchase lures I would ask that they contact me directly and we can save them the shipping charges as we are all located within the greater Madison area.

I look forward to seeing again and I will for sure see you at the Madison Fishing Expo. Please reach out to me with any questions

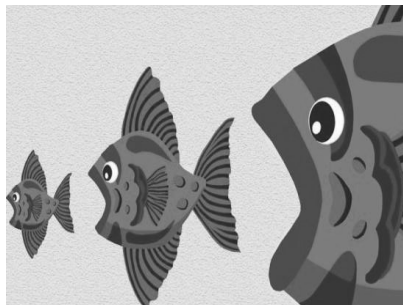
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### Jim Kloth Receives Pete Froland Award



Jim has put in an enormous effort for the club over the last few years, and was awarded the clubs's highest recognition by Jack Hurst at the December meeting.




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## Fishing Contest Winners, 2012

Muskie - no entries  
 Northern - no entries  
 Walleye - Paul Zoch, 28.5  
 Sauger - Kevin Tvedten 19.75  
 Large Mouth - Paul Zoch, 21  
 (already won above),  
 Greg Belanger and Stan Nichols tied with 20.5, Stan was in first and wins.  
 Small Mouth - Stan Nichols, 16.75,  
 Bluegill - Jim Kusuda 11  
 Perch - Tom Klein, 14.25  
 Crappie - Gerald King, 13.5  
 Catfish - Paul Zoch, 33.5  
 Brook Trout - Paul Zoch 13.25, Stan Nichols 12  
 Brown Trout - Paul Zoch, 20.5, Stan Nichols 17  
 Rainbow Trout - Stan Nichols, 14, Paul Zoch 12.75  
 White Bass - Paul Zoch, 17.125, Stan Nichols, 16.5,  
 Don Gostomski, 14.75



## How to Win the Fishing Contest

- First you have to be a member in good standing so pay your dues.
- Then enter the contest before you catch the fish (that is \$5). The contest rules are on the YFC website
- Catch the fish. The easiest categories to win are those that didn't have an entry last year (see above)
- Send an entry to Paul Zoch, 1217, Troy Dr. Madison then you won't forget to enter and if there is a tie, the first entry wins. Paul has entry blanks or they can be printed from the website.
- see website for complete details:  
<http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/yfcficon.htm>

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Notes From the Prez

“Who is this guy?” The words on the lips of many a member of the Yahara Fishing Club. For those wondering about your new YFC Board President, I thought I'd share just a bit of information about myself.

I have lived in Madison most of my 63+ years, attending Madison Central High School, and the U.W. Law School. I now live in the same neighborhood on the west side of Madison which I called home as a youngster. My wife is a Dane County Social Worker and we have one adult daughter who currently lives and works in Chicago (while figuring out what to do about continuing her education in graduate school, and where and when to do it). I have practiced law in Madison for nearly 37 years, the past 17 in a modest-sized law firm concentrating on helping people with financial and employment problems (as well as a variety of other legal needs). I have served as a board member and as president of the Wisconsin Public Radio Association, and as an elected board member and president of a local village government.

Growing up I spent my summers enjoying the Madison lakes, where I often fished, swam, and boated. I have enjoyed fishing over the years while vacationing in central Minnesota with my family, while canoeing on many trips to the Minnesota Boundary Waters and the Quetico Provincial Park, and at my family's vacation cottage in the Minocqua area. My love of fishing came to me no doubt from my father who spent many long summers in his youth fishing the big lake at his family's cabin in Ontario.

I joined the Yahara Fishing Club about two years ago in order to meet other fishing enthusiasts, to learn more about fishing, to find new fishing opportunities, and generally to expand my fishing horizons. Fishing, golf, and wood working are my principal recreational pursuits, and I fully intend to spend less time working, and to devote more time to those activities, during the coming year. When in Madison, I fish primarily on Lake Mendota, mostly for bass, walleye, and northern pike, but happily catching catfish, crappies, white bass, bluegills, and perch as well (not to mention an occasional long nosed gar – what the heck do you do with those things, anyway?).

I look forward eagerly to the coming year as YFC president. It is my hope to get to know many more of my fellow members, to participate in more YFC's terrific activities and programs, to continue to learn and become a more accomplished fisherman, and to contribute in a larger way to the success of our organization. We will all miss Karlette's enthusiastic leadership, but I will do my best to be a worthy successor (and you promised to help me, Karlette!). I trust all YFC members will

feel free to share with me their ideas about the operation of our fishing club (not to mention their knowledge about how to have greater success on the water).

Gard Strother



Gard on Mendota 2012

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**YFC Ice Fishing Derby  
is on Free Fishing  
Weekend**

Duffy,  
We spoke at Muskies inc a couple of weeks back. I wanted you to know that your Yahara Fishing club Ice event is also the same weekend as the DNR free Fishing weekend. Hopefully this will result in a better turn out for you.

You may want to include this info in any of your promotional materials.

Dave Rowe

Fish Team Supervisor  
Fitchburg/SCR  
Fisheries Management  
Wisconsin DNR

(\*) phone: (608) 275-3282  
(\* ) fax: (608) 275-3338  
(\* ) e-mail:

david.rowe@wisconsin.gov

**2013 Fishing Expo**

Friday - February 22, 2013

6:00 PM	Stephan Born	Room B	Trout
7:00 PM	Tony Puccio	Room A	Walleye

Saturday - February 23, 2013

10:00 AM	Madison Area Lakes Panel	Room A	
10:30 AM	Bret Alexander	Room C	Whitefish
11:30 AM	Tom Skarlis	Room A	Walleye
12:00 PM	Kurt Schultz	Room B	Musky
12:30 PM	Larry Nixon	Room C	Bass
1:00 PM	Scott Hamstra	Room B	Kayak Fishing
1:30 PM	Greg Fitch	Room A	GPS/Graph
2:00 PM	Ted Peck	Room B	Mississippi
	River		
2:30 PM	Jeremy Smith	Room C	Pike
3:00 PM	Ryan Rist	Room B	Hi-tech GPS
4:00 PM	Dave Csanda	Room A	Smallmouth
	Bass		
5:00 PM	Ron Barefield	Room C	Panfish

Sunday - February 24, 2013

9:30 AM	Scott Hamstra	Room B	Kayak Fishing
10:00 AM	Larry Nixon	Room C	Bass
10:30 AM	Kurt Schultz	Room B	Smallmouth
	Bass		
11:00 AM	Dave Csanda	Room A	Smallmouth
	Bass		
11:30 AM	Ryan Rist	Room B	Hi-Tech GPS
12:00 PM	Tom Skarlis	Room C	Walleye
12:30 PM	Ron Barefield	Room A	Panfish
1:30 PM	Jeremy Smith	Room C	Largemouth
2:00 PM	Bret Alexander	Room B	Smallmouth

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**December 2012 Christmas Party**



Colleen and Mary in front of the table they arranged

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Including all of Madison's Lakes*

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 8th, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)  
The Board Of Directors meet at 5:45 pm, The General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

**Speaker is member Jim Kusuda - Winter Pan Fishing Tips**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### January Events

January 8th, regular club meeting, Jim Kusuda on Winter Pan Fishing Tips  
January 12th, Kids Icefishing Day, Monona Bay. See ad page 2.  
January 19th YFC derby on Waubesa

### February Events

February 8-10th will be club whitefish outing out of Sturgeon Bay whitefish out of sturgeon Bay  
February 12, regular club meeting, annual auction

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

President - Gard Strother .....258-8555 Director - Don Gostomski 249-8250 Director - Mike Hutchen ...234-1590  
Vice Pres. - Don Hammes ... 836-1205 Director - Paul Zoch ..... 241-5443 Director - Larry Reed .....221-0362  
Treasurer - Dennis Puser.....576-0929 Director - Karlette Schoen..242-8803 Director - Jesse Tougas .....831-3151  
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Check out our web page at:  
[www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)



Yahara Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3271  
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