



March

2015

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

Think Like a Gobie

Excellent article by Stan Nichols

Year four-Sturgeon Bay - I got my pole rigged with a gold, cracked-ice Swedish pimple. I've got a gold slider jig rigged up, nine inches above the pimple. I put on new, four-pound fluorocarbon line and a spring bobber on the pole. I've got waxworms. Eldon has a room reserved at the Comfort Inn and has a friend, Gary who is coming along for the first time. Tom Klein has lunch. For three years I've been climbing the learning curve on how to catch whitefish. I should be ready to go.

Then I got a disturbing e-mail from Jim Pankratz. The fish are biting this year on natural colored Lindy Slick Jigs in one-eighth to one-quarter ounce size or on jigging Rapallas rigged with minnow heads. Looking, I found one, one-quarter ounce gold slick jig left at Dorns west side store-the only one left in Madison. In three years I never caught a whitefish on a minnow, but Howies in Sturgeon Bay sold them if needed.

So off we go, Eldon, Gary, and I. Stopping at Fleet Farm in Beaver Dam- no slick jigs left. Charlie Grimm got the last ones at Cabelas in Green Bay. Howies in Sturgeon Bay was sold out. After three years I couldn't believe they wouldn't bite on a Swedish Pimple and waxworms.

Day one on the ice- it is a nice day. We got minnows at Howies. I am fishing in a shack with Dave Dahl, Jessie, and Gard. One of Dean Gordon's guides comes around and shows us how to rig and jig. For the slick jig you cut off the minnow tail and hook it very straight on the slick jig hook. As I found out later, I was cutting mine off too long and the fish could pull it off without getting hooks. You want the hook to come out just in front of the tail fin. You want to constantly check to make sure the tail is on straight. If it bent or crooked the fish won't bite. The jigging sequence if drop the jig to the bottom, lift it up about five inches three times, drop it to the bottom and lift it one-half inch. Jig it lightly, let it rest for about 30-seconds and repeat, as the guide



The now famous slick jig

said-all daylong. The guide also took off my slider jig.

Things seemed mighty slow the first morning, whitefishing as I remember it. They were catching fish in the shack 50 yards in front of us and I could see a guy fishing in the open 50 yards behind us catching fish. In our shack I think we caught a total of three fish before lunch. After lunch Dave and Gard tried fishing different areas. Jessie and I stuck it out in the shack, although I tried some outside holes. In the afternoon I think I caught only one more fish but Jessie was getting the "touch" and doing better. Just as I was reeling up to quit for the day, I got snagged and lost my lone slick jig. Tomorrow doesn't bode well.

Day two on the ice- the weather had changed dramatically- almost whiteout conditions with blowing snow. No outside fishing today. I fished with Eldon and Gary. They did much better than I did on day one, I needed a change in scenery, and we weren't going to fish all day so I wanted to stick closer to my ride home. Eldon and Gary fished with Rapallas the first day. The rigging was a little different. You cut a minnow roughly in thirds, hooked the minnow head on the front hook of the Rapalla, the tail on the rear hook, again keeping the hook just in front of the tail fin, and keep everything straight-which is difficult with a Rapalla because of the small hooks. The guide recommended taking off the bottom treble to help prevent snagging and clipping off the plastic back fins to get a better hook set. I borrowed a slick jig from one of the guides. Gary started out strong. He was fishing in the center with Eldon and I two feet on either side. I was getting nothing on the slick jig and Eldon might of gotten one fish. I rigged up a nice gold Rapalla per the guides instructions-nothing. I

**Important notes from
the Prez page 6.**

Continued next page

think I caught one fish before 11:00. Finally Gary took pity on me and lent me a Gobie patterned Rapalla. He hadn't altered it. I caught five fish on the rig between 11:00 and noon and Eldon started catching fish. Gary's catching slowed down. This was all within a total of six feet between us. Was the difference in catch a matter of location, technique, timing or all three- I don't know, but after three years I hadn't climbed the learning curve as much as I hoped.

On thing I learned this year was you had to make things look like a gobie and fish close to the bottom where gobies live. I only saw one fish caught on a slider with waxworms although I heard that Terry Grimm caught some early in the morning. When I cleaned my fish some had partially digested gobies in the stomach. With Jim's e-mails that had a You-Tube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqLKEIB0swA&feature=youtu.be>) of cleaning whitefish I did a better job of getting out the pin bones without mashing the fillets. With last years fish I found one of the higher uses of whitefish was making fish chowder. Here is the recipe I used*

- 1-2 lbs. baco n
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch of celery, finely chopped
- 1/2 to 3/4 stick of butter
- 1-2 cans of cream style corn
- 1 qt. Milk
- 1-2 lbs. boned fish
- Salt and pepper to taste

Brown bacon, drain, and set aside. Brown onions and celery in bacon fat, drain, and set aside. Dip fish fillets in flour and fry in bacon fat. Drain all fat from fish. Place all ingredients in a large pot; simmer for 15-20 minutes. Season to taste and serve with oyster cracker. * (From a Fine Kettle of Fish, DNR Publication 17-3600(77)).

Big thanks to Jim Pankratz for organizing the trip, to chef Tom Klein and helpers for food, and to Dean Gordon and crew for outfitting and guiding.



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YFC Outings

March: Depere Fox River walleye

Depere Fox River walleye run will hopefully happen over the next few weeks and will depend on when the ice is off the river and boat landings to get out and fish. This usually lasts just 2-3 weeks and likely will be the weekend of 3/20-22 and 3/27-29. Your chances of catching a lot of 20+ inch walleyes are high and maybe even a 30" fish. We will have to be flexible on this outing and it could be any number of days. A good location to book is the Bay Motel in Green Bay near Lambeau Field if you want to stay the weekend or during the week. Day trips are also possible. Please simply tell me your interest of when you want to go and I will hook you up with other club members. Small boats can easily do this trip. I will be signing people up during our club meeting on 3/10 and will send out a report when the river becomes fishable. Contact me with questions.

April: Lake Michigan Bender Park Coho and brown trout

This outing will also be weather dependent and especially with wind and waves dictating what days are possible. Possible days for this outing after ice out could be 4/4, 4/11 or 4/25. We will fish with medium tackle casting for these great fish out in front of the Oak Creek power plant.

April: Peshtigo River walleye run April 18-19 (probable date)

Our Rock Valley Anglers will be doing this outing and small boats can easily do this trip. Catch lots of walleyes with a 5 per day limit. This run will last a few weeks and again a day outing, weekend and mid week are all possible. Sign-up during our March club meeting or contact me.

May: Big Bay de Noc smallies 5/15-17, 5/22-25, 5/29/31

You won't want to miss this great opportunity to catch tons of big smallies. This dual club outing last year caught more than 1000 fish. This year we plan on hunting some walleyes also in the early morning and possible evenings. There is very limited space for accommodations in Nahma, Michigan on this outing so if you're interested sign-up early. During the week is wide open for availability.

All outings mentioned above are open to all club members and families. If you don't have a boat we will do everything we can to get you in one with another club member.

Jim Pankratz

Contact me at iimannepan@aol.com or 709-6442

March Speaker -

Mike Pecosky



Mike Pecosky, a local guide with Bait Rigs Pro-Staff, will talk on fishing the Madison chain.

Favorite Fishing Techniques:

I love jigging with a spinning rod and reel. You can catch fish anywhere in the country with this presentation. My favorite musky presentations are casting bucktails, crank baits and jerk baits. When the fishing is tough and the fish are suspended or in transition I like to troll. Some of my biggest catch and release fish are caught trolling every year.

Mike will present segments on fishing for panfish, Walleye, Muskie and other favorites.

Fishing Tip: A happy wife is a happy life.



V.F.W. Post 1318
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YFC Perch outing, Saturday Feb 21.

Saturday's Mendota perch outing went well. We had a gorgeous day with light wind and warm temperatures. Transportation was fine, with everyone getting out smoothly in one group. The fishing was OK, there were fish being caught and people learned some techniques for the 60 fow.



Jim Kusuda

I have been dealing with a tough perch season on Mendota by trying for walleye. I am surprised that they are biting. I haven't done it much, but this is the year to try, I guess. Released



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Duffy Kopf

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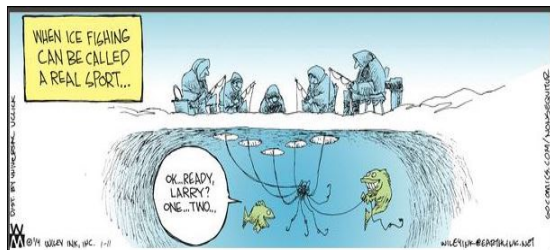
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Pictures from the 2015 fishing expo.



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As I write this message, I am sitting at my kitchen table, looking outside the window and seeing at least a little sunshine and some drops of water from snow melting off the roof. It's vaguely warm outside for a change, and I find myself daring to think about the arrival of spring. To be sure, there will be good ice fishing conditions for quite awhile yet (and I hope to take advantage), but my boat will come out of storage in a month-and-a-half, and I will hope to be out on the open water sometime around the first of May. Come the first of April, I will be buying my new fishing license and contemplating a trip or two to our area rivers to see if I can find some early walleyes. I'm thinking it's a good moment to begin planning in earnest for devoting less time to working, and more time to fishing!

Thanks to all of those who contributed to the success of YFC's Kids' Ice Fishing Day. Particular thanks go to our Club V.P. Phil James for organizing and coordinating everything, to Duffy Kopf and Jim Kusuda for getting about a million holes drilled in the ice for the kids, and to Dave Dahl and his wife for their time and effort directed to getting the food prepared so that we could feed the kids and their families. The weather was very favorable, and we gave away more than three hundred rods and reels, not to mention buckets, bait, etc. The consensus seemed to be that the event was a truly a big success this year, and what we learned in the process will make for an even better event next January.

I spent a considerable part of the past two days at the 2015 Fishing Expo. It seemed to me that attendance at Saturday's session was especially good, and the Club did rather well at our booth selling raffle tickets (somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1500 for the initial two days of the Expo). There is of course still quite a bit of time left for our members to sell additional tickets prior to the big drawing for the prizes, so get some additional tickets from the Club (Jim Pankratz in particular), and get your friends, neighbors, and family members to buy and get in on the prize drawing. This is an important source of revenue for the Club, enabling us to continue to provide to the public the sort of programs and opportunities which we have offered in the past, and which support and promote the sport of fishing in the community. The prominent presence of Club members like Jim Pankratz and Charlie Grimm (apologies to anyone else I may have neglected to mention!) on the Expo Board, and Duffy Kopf on the list of seminar speakers, brings additional recognition to our Club. The same is true for this year's big turnout of Club members (more than twenty this year) to help the vendors unload and set-up on Friday morning. I had an enjoyable time Saturday shopping for, and buying, some new fishing gear (which my wife would rightly say I didn't truly need, but, hey! It's always fun to get some new stuff). I like to support the Expo exhibitors and vendors, and in the process I always get to talk to some

interesting folks, and learn a few more things about fishing.

I have always enjoyed the annual Club auction, held once again this past month with considerable success. There was lots of good fishing gear (and other items such as baked good) donated by lots of different people, and many good deals to be had. Our new bidding system seemed to work very well, and made for easier record keeping and collecting of winning bids. Our auctioneers kept everything moving along efficiently, and the preliminary report indicates we collected well over \$1000. Thanks to the many donors and to the buyers.

Last month your Board of Directors employed a new strategy designed to get more work accomplished. We met a week ahead of the general membership meeting, at a place away from the noise and commotion that tends to be encountered in the later stages of Board meetings at the VFW Hall. We accomplished a great deal, though there's lots more work to do. We are fortunate to have three new Board members who have already brought new perspectives and ideas to the task of making ours' an even better organization. The Board recognizes that we do need to make changes and improvements to the way we do things. We need to expand our membership, and we need very much to get more members involved in the programs and activities of the Club. Those activities and programs require a considerable amount of time and effort, and we can't continue to always rely on the same generous and committed people, year after year, to do the work involved. It is quickly becoming evident that we are in an important transition period. The Board will be looking for fresh ideas on how to accomplish this goal, and we will be open to hearing from our members who have ideas to offer. The Board is in the process of reviewing and recreating our antiquated corporate By-Laws, and we expect to have a new version available for consideration by the membership sometime in the next couple of months. The Board has voted to create a new position, namely an Events Coordinator. The Events Coordinator will be responsible for making sure that we recruit people to do the work arranging for Club events, that those people have the information and tools needed to get the job done, and that the work is accomplished in a timely way. The Board has determined to provide all members with a YFC membership roster, with contact information, in order to promote communication among members (for things as simple as helping members get together for their favorite pastime). The Board has, though not without considerable reflection and some hesitation, decided that in the future, monthly newsletters will not be mailed, but will be made available at the Club's website. This will save the Club nearly \$20 per year for each member (out of annual membership dues of \$25 per individual member and \$35 per family member), and will avoid an increase in membership dues which would otherwise be needed in order to defray the increasing cost of mailing. Stay tuned for additional developments, and in the meantime, feel free to share with any Board member ideas you may have.



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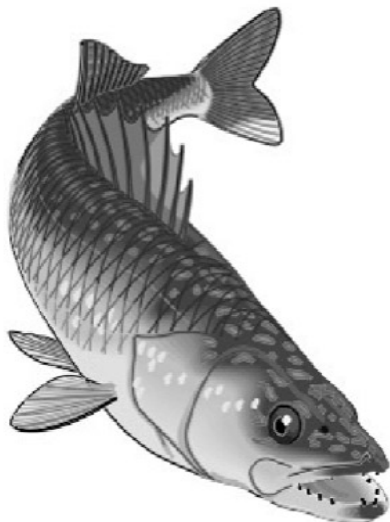
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The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 10th
The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Speaker - Local Guide Mike Pecosky

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March Events

March 10th, Regular club meeting at the VFW Hall. Speaker is local guide Mike Pecosky. See page 3.

April Events

April 14th, Regular club meeting at the VFW Hall.

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

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