



September
2011

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

The Menominee River

By Chris Spierings

Every summer my son Mitch and I try to get out and try some water that we haven't fished before. Given that Mitch's favorite fish is bass and mine is walleye a safe middle ground for us is to fish smallmouth bass. Our goal for the year was to try and have one of us put a 6 pound bass in the boat. Our plan for the new water fishing trip was to try the Menominee River up around Pembine. Plan A was to fish it the third week in May but the weather was brutal so plan B was to try to get up there for a long weekend starting the 22nd of July before football camp/practice started for Mitch.

The little bit I know about the Menominee River is that for much of its length it serves as the border to keep the Packer fans safe from the Yoopers. Beyond that there are a number of small dams which generate electricity and create small impoundments. It has a reputation for some nice smallmouth as well as walleye, some musky and respectable panfish at some times of the year.

We launched out of a township landing on Short Cut Rd. near a place called the Four Seasons Island Resort. As we came out of the landing in a backwater and headed to the river we got a view of the resort, golf course and the island it is on. Our plan for the day was to head downstream to fish the reservoir. We started out throwing 4" Senkos at trees and other obstructions in the water on the shady shore. Things started slow but eventually we started getting hits and boating a few small to medium sized smallmouth. Eventually we reached the dam and worked over the rip rapped face. Senkos again produced the best with lots of small fish running 10-12".



Miscauno Island in the middle of the river

Later we headed back up to the Resort on Miscauno Island. It seems like the island is the point at which the river transitions into a slower moving reservoir and began to work our way up stream. The river is where the action was at. For the next three hours we put numerous smallmouths in the boat by the time we got out the sandwiches my thumb was all scuffed up from lipping fish and the net had been out a couple times for some fish that Mitch hooked that were pushing 19". Our total fish caught for the day was well over 50 smallmouth and a half a dozen pike the largest being about 30" all of which were released.

Continued next page

*(The pictures for this article look better on the website.
See <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/yfcstor.htm>)*



One of Mitch's nicer fish 18.75"

We were actually staying at my uncle's cabin down in Mountain so on Saturday we loaded him in the truck and headed back up to the river. It was a little cooler and this time we didn't spend any time heading down stream. We started in the river and stayed there for the remainder of the time we fished Senkos were again a very good producer but Mitch also got some fish on Skitt Pops and Rebel Pop Rs. We worked our way up stream fishing the rocks, logs, docks and stuff that diverted the current in the river. Our journey up stream was cut short by some thunder, lightning and a hard cold rain but since we were in the river with lots of things to hit the lower unit we couldn't get back to the landing very fast.



Uncle Al's first fish of the day

As we were nearing the landing the rain let up and we decided to fish around Miscoano Island. We saw some fish busting the surface at the head of the island and on my first cast to the blow up I picked up a nice smallmouth. Mitch put on a white crankbait and it got smacked by a 15" walleye. Once Uncle Al saw the walleye his eyes lit up and he forgot all about the smallmouths. Saturday's fishing wasn't as productive as Friday but the fish we did catch seemed to be a little bigger overall than Friday with about 35 fish put in the boat in four hours.

Smallmouth bass may be the fish that gets me to start respecting the sport of bass fishing. The ones we ran into on the Menominee fought hard, showed of incredible aerobic ability and the range of colors of the fish was incredible. Some of the fish were deep brown others had a lighter color with dark bars and splotches. We caught smallies ranging from about 10" all the way up to just shy of 19" and the sheer number of fish that we caught and saw makes me think they have to be the primary predator in that stretch of the river.

Overall we found that stretch of the Menominee to be pretty boater friendly if you didn't have to go ripping around at full throttle. There are hazards in the river but if you keep it to an idle or a little faster as you get an idea of where the hazards are you should be OK. The water is stained but clear enough to see the stuff you need to watch out for. I was amazed at how little boat traffic there was both on Friday and Saturday.

After we wrapped up fishing on Saturday we drove over to the Resort. The place is spectacular looking and I learned that during week days, Monday through Thursday it is only \$79 a night for double occupancy. There is a 9 hole golf course on the island and the Resort itself has a small museum within and best of all hookups to permit you to charge your boat.

Continued next page

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I think I can convince my bride we should visit

After fishing this area I know I will be going back. That hotel would definitely interest my wife and the golf will make it an easier draw for her. In talking to folks in the area the resort's food is supposed to be pretty good. I'm thinking maybe a fall trip, leave the kids with grandpa and make a romantic weekend, me, the boat and my wife. If I can convince her to leave the golf clubs home



50.75" Muskie caught by Eric Olson on 8/22, Lake Vermilion in MN

2 Days Adrift

A friend and I just spend one day drifting down a northern section of the beautiful, scenic St. Croix and another floating down the Upper Mississippi north of the Twin Cities, small mouth fishing.

The water was high on the St. Croix and so the current was quite fast. This made for hard work on the part of our guide who was at the helm and the oars. The small mouth fishing was very good, using 4" plastic worms, wacky style. We also tried surface lures without success. Tom, our guide, from 45 Degrees North Fly Fishing Co., seemed very knowledgeable and was very accommodating. He had to be as my friend frequently put his lure ashore. They use Clackacraft Drift boats and normally fly fish but they accommodated our wish to spin cast.

On the Upper Mississippi, the water was also high and the river was deeper and wider than the St. Croix. We frequently rowed from one side of the river to the other in order to fish better bass habitat. Our guide provided accommodations the evening before and had a folding table and benches for a sandbar lunch. As the sun warmed the river, we had a good surface bite using Torpedoes. We were adrift again in a Clackacraft Drift boat and our guide, Kip, from Wildwood Float Trips was very knowledgeable and accommodating.

The largest fish boated was a 19" small mouth. While you can catch lots of small mouth in our local lakes, this was a very enjoyable trip and catching small mouth in strong river currents adds a new dimension to "fighting fish".

John Kanvik

The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope. (Quote from the Wisconsin State Journal provided by John Kanvik)

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STURGEON OUTING

STURGEON OUTING Sept. 23, 24, and 25 out of Hudson, WI. on the lower St. Croix.

We will finalize plans at the Sept meeting on the 13th. The tentative plan is to leave the Madison area early Friday morning, or you can hook up w/ us on Friday evening, departure time to be decided based on car/boat pooling. It's about a 4 hour drive to Hudson. I have arranged a block of rooms at the Quality Inn in Hudson which is 10 minutes away from the boat launch in Hudson. Mention the YFC to get the discounted rate of \$66.60 plus tax (\$72.76 total) per night double occupancy.

We had a great time last year with everyone catching at least one Sturgeon plus Catfish and other species. The gear used was a Muskie or other HD rod/reel combo spooled with 50# line, pyramid weight in 1 – 3 ounces (depending on current) on a slider with at least a 30# mono or fluorocarbon leader using a #03 – 04 circle hook.. I will have a typical set up at the meeting. The primary bait was a gob of crawlers with some cut bait being used. I will have some frozen Salmon belly meat to use as cut bait or you can buy suckers to cut up in Hudson (a little pricey). We will have a flat of crawlers for everyone to share. Walleye and Musky are common in the lower St. Croix, so bring gear if you want to try for these species.

I will have some photo copy type maps of the lower St. Croix at the Sept. meeting or you can purchase a commercial one such as hotmaps.

For food, the Quality Inn provides a great breakfast, we will have a roll your own shore lunch (pass the hat) with sandwich meats, cheese and trimmings at a park on the Minn. side where there is a dock, shelter, and rest rooms. Saturday night will be a pizza party at the Quality Inn. Beverages are BYO.

These are boundary waters but as long as you are not fishing on the Minn. shore land, a WI license works. The minimum length for Sturgeon is 60 inches, one per season. I hear Sturgeon is excellent table fair as well as a smoked fish. If you plan on keeping a Sturgeon, you will need a Sturgeon tag (\$20.00) available at any license outlet or one is included if you have a Patrons license (if you did not apply for this when you got your Patron license, you will have to get one at a DNR license outlet). According to the WI. DNR, the tag used is for the INLAND WATERS as the DNR does not print one for the Minn/WI boundary waters. This is a change from last year when the DNR said to use a Mich./WI. boundaries water tag.

Looking forward to this outing, any questions, Tom K, cell 225-4968, email, tom_klein@dishmail.net FYI, Quality Inn, Hudson, WI, 715-386-6355, conf # 79842471, cancel by Sept. 22, 4pm.

Tom Klein

The last couple newsletters have contained fishing stories supplied by club members. I think they were great and of interest to the rest of the club. Keep them coming! Editor.



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Notes From the Prez

My brother Bill and I spent a few days last week at my cabin on 1000 Island Lake on the Cisco Chain. Fishing was pretty good.....lots of bass and a few good ones. Did some painting and staining.....that's a never ending process up there in the UP.....weather varies from 95 degrees to 25 below.....no wonder that damn paint peels off! But we sure noticed how the days were getting significantly shorter and some trees starting to show some color. Of course, we threw in a couple adult beverages.....sitting on the deck listening to the loons and watching the eagles and ospreys.....good stuff. I hope and pray that the Good Lord grants me a few more years to continue this business.....especially with my grandkids!

And for sure fall means more than that to many people. Some are anxiously awaiting the start of real meaningful football. And I just had this thought that our club has many similarities to a football team. Our club sponsored events are similar to "big games" that determine our success and define us. And so it is that I'm really looking forward to the upcoming season... ..especially with so many returning starters! Our club knows how to "git 'er done."

And so, like any good head coach, here's my pep talk. Let's all get on board for another fun-filled season.....starting with the meeting on Tuesday Sept 13. Each of us should just do one extra thing this year to help the club. Volunteer one extra time, bring a friend (and potential new member) to a meeting, come up with a new idea to help the club raise money for all our projects. Don't

forget though, that each new idea has to be implemented and that means heading up a committee. Don't be afraid of a little legwork.....it's not really work if you talk to a dairy farmer!

This fall, we have scheduled some great meetings, outings, and fun times. I enjoy meeting on the water in the summer but it's good to "get back home" to the VFW and regular meetings. Our summer meetings were a great success this year.....we can always use some more fish caught but what's new! Tom Wilke has set up some great speakers for the upcoming year.....starting with Greg Fitch in September. Greg will be talking about electronics and setting them up on your boat. He's the absolute best! His presentation last year at the Madison Fishing Expo won rave reviews. I'm on the speaker committee for the MFE and I have never heard better comments about a speaker from folks attending the seminars than I did for Greg's talk last year. With one possible exception, and that Rick Krueger, our own "frogman." Rick dives our lakes year round and has an awesome collection of photos and info that he shares with all fishing folks. And what do you know.....he's also going to speak at our club meetings this fall!

So that's about it folks. We're set for another fun fall with the Yahara Fishing Club. Don't forget the fish fry at St. Paul's on Friday Sept 16.....just a few nights after the meeting. This is a super fund raiser for our club.....plan on being there.....last minute tickets will be at the Sept meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there. If you want to talk before that.....easy peasy, lemon squeezy.....call 220-8934.



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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 least one door prize.

Raffle News

\$50 available. The featured item will be a \$50.00 gift certificate from D&S. Also a lot of other nice items including a Rapala spin combo, another fisherman's barometer, LED head lamp, crawler harnesses, Musky baits, assorted plastics and more. Give it try and good luck - your chances of winning something are really good

Need a boat?

Dwyer Marine is a sponsor of the Yahara Fishing Club and we need to support all of our sponsors. Maybe you are not in the market, but have a friend that is. The 2011 G3 models need to be cleared out to make room for the 2012 models. As a result, Dwyer Marine has three fishing boats left at great prices (also some pontoons).

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2. The Angler V170C has a console and is 16'10" long with an 84" beam. It is powered by a 60HP Yamaha 4stroke which is quiet and economical. \$14,950 puts you in a great boat.
3. The Guide V170T is a tiller model with a 60HP Yamaha 4stroke which compliments the 16'10" long hull and 84" beam. All horizontal surfaces in this boat are covered with marine grade vinyl. Just hose it down after a tough day on the water. A very versatile boat at \$14,250.

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Upcoming Outings

Sturgeon on the Lower St. Croix. After a successful outing last September where everyone caught at least one Sturgeon, this outing is back by popular demand. The dates are Friday, Sept. 23, 24, and 25. We will be staying at a discounted rate at the Quality Inn in Hudson, WI. It is important for me to know who is planning on going and if they can bring a boat. This is anchored fishing in current with some boat travel to get to the farther holes. Also available is Walleye and Muskie action.

Please contact me ASAP if you plan on attending, email, tom_klein@dishmail.net or cell, (608) 225-4968.

Clements Fishing Barge on the Mississippi. This will be a one day trip on Oct. 18. We will car pool, no boat necessary. Target species are Walleye, Sauger, Perch and whatever else the river provides. More detail to follow.

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. Date to be decided.

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 successful at this endeavor and has property in the area. ATV's will be a must and we will ATV pool as much as possible, we will not take vehicles on the ice of Green Bay. This could be a weekend or a one day outing. Early Feb. date and more info to follow.

March and April outings yet to be decided, provide me with any suggestions.

May . Likely we will hit the Fox River out of Oshkosh for the White Bass run. A good time was had by all last May w/ mixed success. More detail later.

Tom Klein

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

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Annual Dues:

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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, September 13th**, at the VFW Hall

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

Next Speaker: Greg Fitch - electronics for fishing

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September Events

Sept 13th. Regular monthly meeting at the VFW hall. Greg Fitch (fall battery main. and electronics for fishing)

Sept. 23, 24, and 25. Sturgeon on the Lower St. Croix.

October Events

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

October 18th. Clements Fishing Barge on the Mississippi. This will be a one day trip.

November Events

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

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

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