



September  
2018

Editor: Tom Raschke [tomraschke50@gmail.com](mailto:tomraschke50@gmail.com)

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

## Lake of the Woods, August 6-8, 2018

### Down rigging for Walleyes

By Stan Nichols

Many of us have used or at least seen downriggers used for catching salmon and trout on Lake Michigan. Have any of you tried it for catching walleyes? Tom Raschke, four of my high school friends, and I had the opportunity during the first week of August to fish Lake-of-the Woods (LOW), Minnesota for walleyes using downriggers.

First a little background. One of my friends lives near Sturgis, South Dakota so he likes to get out-of-town the first week of August because that is rally week. We had used down rigging for walleyes two years earlier in early September on LOW. We caught a lot of fish but it wasn't terribly exciting so the crew preferred to try jig fishing. When I checked with BorderView Lodge they said early August was a transition period. Usually they try jigs or drifting with spinner rigs first thing in the morning and if that isn't working they start trolling with down riggers.

The first morning we tried fishing with jigs and minnows but only caught two fish in the first hour. Captain Jon thought that was way too slow so we switched to trolling with down riggers. The technique is ideally suited for LOW. We were trolling over mud flats in 35 feet of water with no obstructions and no floating junk in the water to foul lines. Captain Jon trolls with the wind so he can maintain a constant boat speed-about 2.7 miles per hour. Using 20 pound Power Pro line he sets the lure about 25 feet back from the down rigger ball and sets the ball about seven feet above the bottom. He uses Shad Raps, Wally Divers and other common walleye lures. He calculates these lures dive about another five feet with this set up so he is pulling the lures about two-feet above the bottom. LOW is large enough so we were making five-mile trolling passes before cranking up, heading back up wind and starting over.

Did we catch fish? You bet. First a little about Minnesota fishing regulations- LOW has a slot limits where you have to return any walleye between 19.5 and 28 inches. You can keep one fish over 28-inches. For northern pike the slot size is 30 to 40-inches. We ate as many walleyes as we could hold. We brought back our possession limit (four walleyes and two sauger per person) and we released many slot fish including five over 27-inches. We didn't break the 28-inch barrier. The ideal take home fish is 19 3/8 inches but fish in the 18 to 19 inch category were hard to come by. We also caught two 35-inch northern pike and a few smaller ones. Tom caught his personal best walleye and northern pike.

Would I go fishing up there on my own? - Probably not. We were fishing in the middle of nowhere in a big boat. We were about 16 miles north of the south shore and you could catch a glimpse of land every once in awhile-no place for my 16-foot Alumacraft boat on an open, windy lake.

Captain Jon was also going to show us the drifting technique with spinner rigs and night crawlers but the last afternoon it was almost dead calm. He likes at least a one-M.P.H. wind to drift fish. If you want to jig fish Jon recommends going up to LOW by the end of June and preferably before the middle of June.

Would the technique work locally? It is hard to say. Under special circumstance it might work in Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa where the maximum depth is about 35-feet and a rather flat main basin. You couldn't get a five-mile trolling pass and much of the year you would have to contend with a lot of floating weeds and junk to foul your lines. The depth in Lake Monona and Mendota vary a lot more and the main basins are much deeper but it might work to troll the top of the thermocline (about 30 feet down). There might be possibilities on Lakes Koshkonong and Winnebago but I am not that familiar with fishing them.

*Pictures page 6*

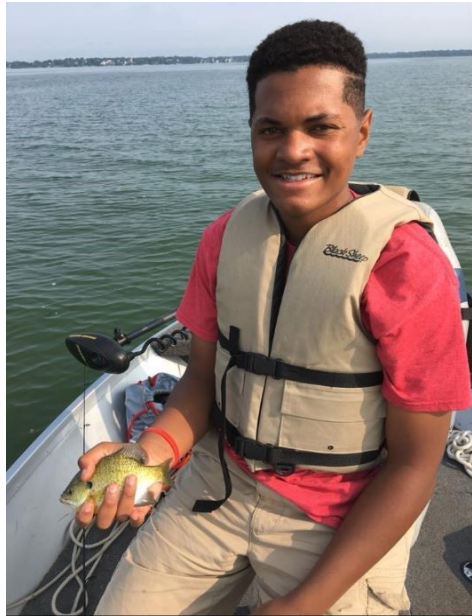
#### In this issue:

Member Appreciation Picnic Page 2.  
Club Calendar Page 4.

**ATTENTION NON-FACEBOOK PEOPLE**  
You are missing a lot of great pictures and stories from club members. Much of this newsletter is pulled from Facebook. If you have any questions on how to join contact Gary Schutte at [gary943@gmail.com](mailto:gary943@gmail.com). See another note from Jim Pankratz on page 3.

## YFC outing, Lake Monona, Saturday August 18th.

We had another fun club outing this beautiful morning! The bluegill bite on Lake Monona has been terrific all summer and we found some more, most of them not far from the ever-reliable rockpile. Robert Murphy Jr. and I got to fish on Rich Vogt's boat and we all caught a bunch of nice gills in about 3 hours time. (Robert was slaying them for the last hour or so drop-shotting with red worms.) We got a few perch, too! Thank you, Rich, for getting us out on the water and thanks to Jim Pankratz too for organizing



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**2nd Annual Member Appreciation Picnic  
Sunday, September 23, 2018**

Mendota County Park 5130 County Road M, Middleton, WI 53597, **starting at noon.**

Chicken dinner with coleslaw and potato salad. Members, please bring a dish to pass.  
Non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Please contact Gerry King to let him know if you are coming and how many in your party. Family members are invited.  
A sign-up sheet will be at the September meeting or contact Gerry at: 608-513-8573 or [18kingerald21@gmail.com](mailto:18kingerald21@gmail.com)

**YFC Perch outing report Sat. 7/21**

NO perch were caught. However, we did catch numerous smaller Wall-eyes except for one 19", also white bass, yellow bass, sheepshead, and a fine mess of gorgeous bluegills in the 8 – 9.5" range. We were the only boat showing up, so Mike, Kyle, Dave, and Tom went out, it was a fun morning with good company. Tom Klein

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## Another Facebook Plug

Are you checking our clubs Facebook page? Getting signed up is easy and private as it's only open to club members. Actually being signed up and viewing the site is another step! Club members have been posting all kinds of great advice including incredible boat for sale deals, current hot fishing bites, offers to go fishing and more. I posted after our last outing very specific information on a very hot bluegill bite and only 13 club members actually looked at it. YOU'RE MISSING OUT!!! Get signed up on our MEMBER ONLY Facebook page and then once there I hope you take an actual look. Jim Pankratz

## From the August On the Water Meeting



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## More from Facebook—see what you are missing!



**Robert Murphy Jr.**

1 hr

Caught this 31 inch, 13lb channel catfish at Warner Park.



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## 2018 YFC Outings

Yahara Fishing Club

**The current hot bite:** Right now the high water due to ongoing rains has really impacted fishing. With that said some hot bites continue with Lake Monona bluegills with suspended fish in 50 feet of water and also along the weed lines. Lake Michigan out of any port is now starting the Fall salmon run. Walleyes at night are starting to bite on Lake Mendota, Geneva and other lakes. The muskie bite is also going on Lake Waubesa and Monona. If you can get out fishing on a scheduled outing invite a club member to go chase these hot bites now!

**Lake MI salmon outing Sept. 15, 22, 29:** This trip will heavily depend on the weather forecast with winds about 10 mph or less needed for safe small boat fishing. Let's plan for the 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning and if weather allows great otherwise it will get rescheduled for the following weekend. Milwaukee Harbor is our starting point but this could change to Bender Park in Oak Creek. Sunrise is at 6:30 so it will be a very early trip likely lasting until 10 or noon depending on captain.

**Lake Waubesa muskie outing Sept. 15, 22, 29:** If nothing else is biting well why not chase the top of the food chain! I'm looking for anyone interested in doing this and if we get some commitments we will select one of these dates. Morning or late day trip likely which could change to Lake Monona.

**Lake Mendota walleye evening outing Sept. 15, 20 (Thursday):** Let's go crazy and actually go fishing in the late day/evening or even crazier and fish during the week! Start time 6:00 PM with a likely trolling outing going past dark to 9:00 or so.

**Lake Wisconsin:** We had to cancel last month due to high water and poor fishing. The weather has been more of the same but as the temperature and water cools we should be able to get out hopefully in late September or early October. This will be a walleye, sauger, panfish and more outing. Look for more information to come on specifics as the weather changes.

**September:** Lake Mendota northern- Duffy is presenting on Lake Mendota northern to the Rock Valley anglers on Sept. 12 at 6:30 PM. This bite will definitely get better with cooling water so look for a possible upcoming outing and advice from Duffy.

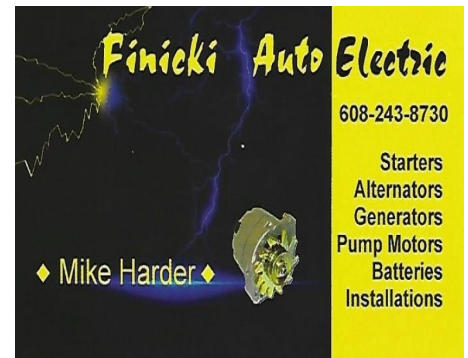
**October:** Lake Mendota smallmouth/northern, Lake MI salmon

**November:** Tenney Park breakwall walleyes, Clements Fishing Barge 11/10- Veteran's fish free. Take a vet or yourself to the barge to close out the season.

**December:** local outing

**Guided trips on local lakes, Green Bay/Sturgeon Bay or others:** Would you like to learn a lake better or techniques with a guide and join other club members to get a better rate? Contact me if interested.

Jim Pankratz 608-709-6442 or jimannepan@aol.com



 **Randy Winkelman**  
August 12 at 9:09 AM

Nice largemouth caught on Upper Gresham Lake in Boulder Junction.



# City Detail & Appearance Center

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**Note from Kevin Tvenden**

Jean and Steve Scott brought raspberry bars to the "on the water outing" at Lake Farm boat launch, (Lake Waubesa) meeting. They were fantastic! Sorry for those who missed out. Oh yeah, delicious too! Take care, Kevin

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**RAFFLE NEWS for September Mtg.** Yahara Fishing Club

Featured raffle items:

Gift certificate for \$50 to D&S tackle store.

YFC logo hat with 3 way lighting.

Also Muskie baits, crank baits, tip ups, tungsten jigs, and much more.

Tex Torgenson will be our official ticket caller this year. Cathy McGee will do set up as I am out of town for the Sept. meeting. Tom Klein



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**Duffy Kopf**  
August 1 at 8:03 AM

Beautiful morning on Mendota.



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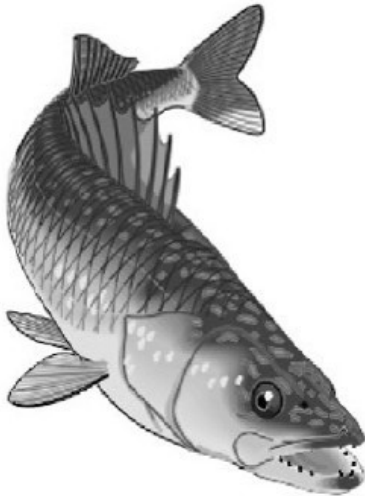
Stan at Lake of the Woods



Tom at Lake of the Woods

Yahara Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3271  
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Check out our web page at: [www.yaharafishingclub.org](http://www.yaharafishingclub.org)

### Yahara Fishing Club Membership Form

**P.O. Box 3271 Madison, WI 53704**

Annual Dues are from January 1 to December 31. Please print. \*\*\* ESSENTIAL

Name \*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

If Family or Youth, Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_

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The next YFC meeting is Wednesday, September 12th  
7:00 pm. Back at the VFW Hall, 301 Cottage Grove Road, Madison, WI

Speaker: Austin Ragotzkie - Trolling for Walleyes on the Madison Lakes.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**September Events**

- September 12th, Meeting back at the VFW hall at 7:00 pm
- September 23, 2nd Annual YFC Picnic (a Sunday)

**October Events**

October 10, 2018, Meeting at the VFW Hall at 7:00 pm

Board of Directors and Officers

Gard Strother, President	Tom Wilke, Speakers	Tex Torgeson, Auctioneer
Phil James, Vice President	Karlette Schoen, Treasurer	Mark Riederer
Gerald King	Larry Reed	
Ken Terrill	Jim Krause	