



# North Star Bass Club

• MINNESOTA'S FIRST BASS CLUB SINCE - 1974 •

## February 2009

### Newsletter

Volume 35 Issue 2

#### CALENDAR DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Feb. 4th—Club Meeting**  
**Location:** American Legion  
in **Underwood**  
**Time:** 7:00 pm.  
**Agenda:** Lakes and Dates

- Our January meeting was well attended. We had 14 members present. There was also a lot of discussion, which isn't surprising as it was our yearly rules meeting. A number of changes are taking place for the coming fishing season for the North Star Bass club. Check out the meeting minutes below for all the details.
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- Our next meeting is February 4th in Underwood and we will be picking lakes and dates so you don't want to miss this one. In addition, I will be adding an attendance page showing each members' meeting attendance record for the year. In case you forgot, this was a rule made back at our December meeting that in order to participate in the fish-off event, you have to attend at least 4 meetings. I figure that it would be good to have the captured details posted somewhere. Hope to see most of you at the next meeting!

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#### **CLUB MEETING NOTES:**

- Held January 7th at the Underwood American Legion
- Called to order by president Dave Steinbach
- Members present: 14—Steve Kubeny, Jerry Ewert, Casey Ehlert, Terry Black, Don Bjerklie, Howard Fullhart, Mark Henry, Mike Seabrook, Dave Steinbach, Gregg Ripley, Don Cole, John Simonson, John Lhotak, Mike Macheledt..

#### Old Business:

- Discussion on getting a one-year warranty on your scale. The cost was minimal and the club decided to have John Simonson get the warranty on the scale for the club.

#### New Business:

- The biggie rule change of the evening! Discussion was made and passed to shorten our tournament length. This motion was carried after much discussion and a good compromise resulted. The new rule states that all tournaments (including the mystery and fish-off) will run from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. effectively having seven hour tournaments.
- The next rule deals which lakes we pick from year to year. It appears this rule has been in existence in the past. The rule states that we will not be fishing the same lake more than 2 years in a row. So say good-bye to Spitzer and LCR for this coming year.
- Motions made but not passed: 1) Not allowing pre-fishing. 2) Not to penalize for a dead fish. It was at this point that a note should be made: Howard is being obstinate (sorry, but it's in the official secretary notes).

## FISH

**Q:** How are fishermen and fish alike?

**A:** They both get into trouble when they open their mouths.

**Q:** What did the catfish say when he smacked his head against a concrete wall?

**A:** Dam

## HUMOR

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To get the latest information, be sure to visit our club's website at:  
**NorthStarBass.com**

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**FEATURED  
WEB RESOURCE OF THE  
MONTH**

**BassFan**

[<http://www.bassfan.com/>]

If you are a fan of bass fishing, then this has to be one of your Internet favorites. It has every nook and cranny for following each of the pros and maintaining an exhaustive list of stats and tournament standings.

**FISHING TIP OF THE  
MONTH**

**When the barometer rises,  
fish deeper.**

"Deeper" is relative to the current structure or cover the fish are holding. If they are at 4 feet, it means they are deep down in the cover probably holding tight.

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**Downsizing spinnerbaits  
Smaller spinnerbaits create a comfort level for bass**

By Louie Stout  
BASS Times, April 2004

There are times when a unique tactic simply comes to you by accident — like one did for Marty Stone a few years ago.

During a tournament in Alabama, the North Carolina pro was struggling to catch fish on the last day.

"The water was low and really stained," he recalled. "I had been catching them on top-waters and flipping docks, but the water dropped and those techniques weren't working."

Stone picked up a spinnerbait and began covering water, chucking the bait around boat docks. Suddenly he had his limit.

"The bass were absolutely killing it every time I brought it by a dock." So what's the big deal? Spinnerbaits are good in dirty water, right?

"Yes, but not like this one," Stone explained. "It was a little 3/8-ounce bait with small blades, not what you would consider your traditional dirty water spinnerbait."

Stone shrugged it off as a fluke and resumed fishing his bigger bladed baits when he encountered similar conditions the rest of the season.

"But I kept thinking about those hard strikes I got with the smaller bait and decided to try it again. The results proved phenomenal and it's now a part of my arsenal in shallow, dirty water."

Stone believes smaller spinnerbaits create a comfort level for bass that aren't in an aggressive mood.

"The bait is quieter, and because the fish can't quite see what it is, that makes it even more intriguing and they try to eat it," he said.

Ideal situations for smaller baits include shallow grass, laydowns or rocks when spring-time fish are in less than a foot of water; during summer and fall when lake levels drop and bass push into shallow creeks; or when shallow docks are the primary form of cover.

"You can flip a jig around those places and catch fish, but you've got to make a lot of flips, and presentations must be pinpoint accurate. With a spinnerbait, I can still fish slow but cover water faster." His favorite lure for dirty water is one he created for Gambler, a 3/8-ounce model with a chartreuse head and tandem No. 3 Colorado blades. If that doesn't work, he'll drop down to a 1/4-ounce with No. 2 and No. 3 Colorado blades.

Line size is equally important. He prefers 15-pound-test P-Line CXX for the 3/8-ounce model and he'll drop to 12-pound test for the smaller version. Both spinnerbaits are fished on a 7-foot American Rodsmith spinnerbait rod (medium/heavy action).

"I'm not worried about fish seeing the line in that dirty water, but the bait works more naturally with smaller line and will ride a little lower in the water," he said.

Smaller baits attract all sizes of fish. Not only will they draw strikes from keeper fish that might shy away from big blades, but the giants will eat them, too. But don't fall into a trap of relying solely on the smaller baits, he cautioned. If they've been working but the water rises a few feet or more, it's time to go back to the bigger baits.



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