

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Location – Upstairs at the Legion Hall, Westboro Branch - 391 Richmond Road, between Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues. *Parking is on neighbouring streets. Start time – 7 pm.*

Crappie-Thon – Saturday, May 6, at Reeve Craig. Time to get the ole' boat wet, and hone those reflexes. Come and have a crappie time!

APRIL MEETING THURSDAY, Apr 6 – 7 pm

Topics:

- 1. Club Fish Planning – Come out and tell Jim where to go.**
- 2. Carp Fishing Show: – Neil is planning our regular "Local Heroes" breakfast before the convoy sets out for Carp. Are you still up for it? Saturday, April 8**

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

As part of my duty as Newsletter Editor, I get to give unsolicited views and comments on various topics.

The first topic on which you are about to get the benefit of my present thinking is the issue of Club Fish sites and the price of gas.

I have noticed that the price of gas is about 90 cents a litre – I know it varies – with the summer coming on, there will be little pressure to lower gas prices.

I know that there is no collusion and also that the Tooth Fairy exists, but my hang-ups are for a different newsletter.

Perhaps we should not schedule Club Fishes at places more than 80 km from Ottawa? Should we consider more Club Fishes at Constance Lake – Nepean – Hogsback – Blair Road?

Maybe one 80 km event a month?

Maybe special events but not part of the Club Fish schedule? Here I'm thinking of something like the Charleston Lake event for CHEO. It's scheduled for June 10, and has an entry fee of \$10. Target species – lake trout.

There's a BBQ, with hot dogs and soft drinks and numerous raffles.

I'm thinking of going because it's for a good cause, and I haven't fished seriously for lake trout in over 50 years. Dave Dietrich would be a contender! Neil McColl has more information.

You know you're a redneck when...

1. You take your dog for a walk and you both use the same tree.
2. You can entertain yourself for more than 15 minutes with a fly swatter.
3. Your boat has not left the driveway in 15 years.
4. You burn your yard rather than mow it.
5. The Salvation Army declines your furniture.

6. You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it.
7. You have the local taxidermist on speed dial.
8. You come back from the dump with more than you took there.
9. You keep a can of Raid on the kitchen table.
10. Your wife can climb a tree faster than your cat.

11. Your grandmother has "ammo" on her Christmas wish list.
12. You keep flea and tick soap in the shower.
13. You've been involved in a custody fight over a hunting dog.
14. You go to the stock car races and don't need a program.
15. You know how many bales of hay your car will hold.

16. You have a rag for a gas cap.
17. Your house doesn't have curtains, but your truck does.
18. You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms so clean.
19. You can spit without opening your mouth.
20. You consider your license plate personalized because your father made it.

21. Your lifetime goal is to own a fireworks stand.
22. You have a complete set of salad bowls and they all say "Cool Whip".
23. The biggest city you've ever been to is Wal-Mart.
24. Your working TV sits on top of your non-working TV.
25. You've used your ironing board as a buffet table.

26. A tornado hits your neighborhood and does \$100,000.00 worth of improvements.
27. You've used a toilet brush to scratch your back.
28. You missed your 5th grade graduation because you were on jury duty.
29. You think fast food is hitting a deer at 65 mph.
30. Someone tells you that you've got something in your teeth, so you take them out to see what it is.

The Whopper That Wasn't

Monte Burke, a staff writer at Forbes, is the author of "Sowbelly: The Obsessive Quest for the World Record Largemouth Bass."
Published: March 28, 2006

Last week, an angler from Carlsbad, Calif., named Mac Weakley was fishing on Dixon Lake, a reservoir near San Diego, when he landed a largemouth bass that weighed 25 pounds, 1 ounce. The fish, if certified by the International Game Fish Association, would topple the current world record: – a 22-pound, 4-ounce bass caught by George Washington Perry in 1932.

Perry's record, the most hallowed in the world of fishing, is the angling equivalent of Hank Aaron's 755 career home runs: a revered mark once thought to be unbeatable that now seems suddenly vulnerable. And like the quest to break Aaron's record by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants, who has been dogged by widespread allegations that he used steroids, Weakley's shot at Perry's record was controversial because of how he caught and documented his monster fish.

Weakley, a 34-year-old casino industry worker, has been pursuing the world record bass for five years, waking on most days at dawn to be the first at the lake, where he would fish all day before going to work at night.

This type of behavior is not unusual among bass chasers. A Los Angeles police officer spent decades going after a record fish. But when he finally caught the bass he thought would top them all, he ended up four ounces short and bitterly quit fishing altogether. Another man in Mississippi lost his wife and child in a divorce over his obsession with catching the record (he's now trying to grow it in his private pond). Not to be outdone, Texas has sunk millions of dollars into a program to breed the next world record bass in a state laboratory in the small town of Athens.

Over the years, people have also tried to cheat their way to the world record, altering photographs they've sent into the game fish association (the keeper of all fishing records) and weighing fish on suspicious bathroom scales. A woman in California even got caught stuffing lead diving weights down the mouth of a bass.

Even Perry's standing record has its share of doubters. Perry, a poor farmer from McRae, Ga., neither took a photograph of his fish nor had it mounted. He simply caught the fish, had it weighed at a country store, took it home and ate it.

In Weakley's case, he accidentally foul-hooked the fish behind the dorsal fin (instead of hooking it in the mouth), which, even if unintentional, is illegal in California. He brought it into the dock at Dixon Lake, weighed the fish on a handheld scale, took photos and shot video. But he neglected to use an association-certified scale for the weigh-in, and he didn't get measurements of the fish's length and girth, two things the association requires for world record applications. Then he released the bass, a female whose belly was full of eggs, back into the lake alive.

Weakley says he thought about sending in an application to the game fish association for world record consideration. But when he realized that his fish might never seem legitimate, he decided against it. "I admit it was foul-hooked, so I said let's just weigh it and let it go," Weakley said.

Perhaps there's a lesson here for Barry Bonds.

Photo on next page



Now that's a bass!

Thanks to Jim for the original article and to Sandy for the link to this amazing photo.

For me, a fish like that would take two hands to hold up!

All Musky Inc.,
1550 Laperrriere Ave, Suite 201, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1Z 7T2

We have taken in a good supply of the Grandma Lures including 3", 4 1/2", 6", 7 1/2", 9" and 13". a good selection of colours and in Painted, Prism and Holoform. This stock was introduced at the Spring Fishing Show in Toronto and we will bring it to the Carp Show

We also have a selection of Bucher, Drifter, Suick, LeLure, Leo-Lures, Musky Innovations, Cowgirls from Musky Mayhem, Smitty, Wild Canuck, and a few Delong. We will be introducing some Fly Rod outfits from Redington, along with a good selection of swim baits, and inline spinners.

Regards,
Des Barnes
VP Business Development, Office: 613-798-7373, ext. 225
Fax: 613-798-5160 Mobile: 613-292-4838

GAS KICKERS vs ENGINE – MOUNTED TROLLING MOTORSAllan Tarvid – February 7, 2006 – **Bass and Walleye Boats**

I've excerpted this from Allan's article because parts of it are into details of how to install the electrics. Not that it isn't the critical part of the article, but it detracts somewhat from looking at what might be involved in making such a decision.

Allan looked at a Glastron Fish n' Ski boat that had a bow with radical curves that wouldn't support a trolling motor. A transom mount was out of the question because the transom was also rounded, covered by a small swim platform, and isolated by a sun deck over the I/O engine compartment. In a situation like that, even a kicker motor couldn't be mounted. I don't know anyone in the club who has a boat like the Glastron, unless it's Ian Midgley and he took the radical solution of buying another boat.

So, in the Glaston example, a Minn-Kota 36 volt, 101 pound thrust, 3 battery motor was installed on the cavitation plate of the Volvo-Penta I/O. There was lots of room for the additional batteries in the engine compartment. The needed 13 inches between the cavitation plate and the surface of the water was OK.

Installation took two Minn-Kota experts five hours. Allan Tarvid thought that it would have taken him two days. The installation was a success and the boat operates well on the electric motor. It pushes the 2050-pound boat with full fuel and four people about 2.9 mph. Boat control is fine – at full lock, the boat will spin in about its own length. It's been used for flat line trolling for four hours with no detectable change in performance.

OK – so what about a comparison with a gas kicker? Well, there is the initial question of cost. Tarvid claims that a gas kicker would be more expensive than the electric stern-drive. I checked into that at Bass Pro. Here are the US\$ prices.

\$549.99 – 55 lbs thrust 12V – 14-18 foot boat

\$749.99 – 80 lbs thrust 24V – 16-20 foot boat

\$949.99 – 160 lbs. 24 V – 20-24' boat (note: this is a dual motor)

Add in four deep cycle maintenance free batteries @ \$150 each = \$600

Add in a 4 bank charger – \$200.

It looks like you could get a pretty stout dual electric for around \$2000 – pretty competitive with a 9.9 gas kicker.

What about weight? How does a gas kicker and gas tank compare to 4 big deep-cycle batteries and the electric motor? Do you even have room in your boat? It does save high-priced gas, but the new 4 strokes and the two-stroke E-Tecs are pretty economical.

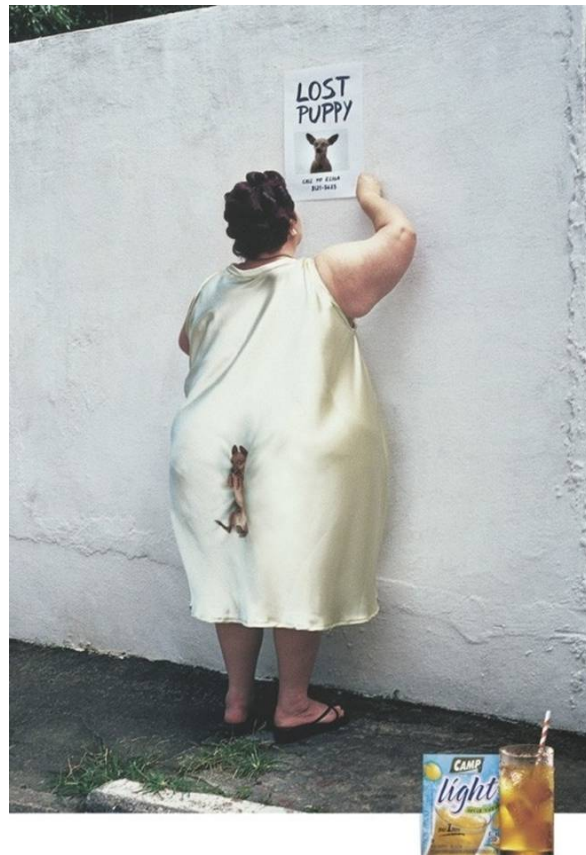
Do you think that you could install either the kicker or the electric motor by yourself or with help?

How about safety? Could you get home on the electric as securely as with a gas kicker and its own tank? Food for thought.



Quarter Horse For Sale

**I'm Sure She'll Find It In
The End**



NO COMMENT