

## **ELOSTA Monthly Membership meeting**

Wednesday Sept. 21, 2005

### **Minutes**

(Also available on [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org))

- President Charlie Ames called the seventh 2005 monthly meeting to order at 7:10 PM in the Lodge Meeting Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Thirty four members/guests were on hand to enjoy the musky tales of Captain Bob Walters of Water Wolf Charters out of Oswego and Clayton. Other officers present included Vice President Doug Fuegel and Treasurer Tom Lott. Mac MacKenzie served in his capacity of Secretary.
- Charlie, calling attention to our somewhat lengthy program and the two hour time constraint here at Gander Mountain, motioned to accept the minutes for the last meeting as presented by Mac MacKenzie in the August Newsletter. His motion was seconded and carried.
- Treasurer Tom Lott read the Financial Report for the period August 18 – September 20, 2005. Checks written to Libby Lougnot (editing), Newsletter printing, letterheads, Fisheries Coalition shore dinners, and the Northeast Sports Show totaled \$828.88. ELOSTA's net savings (\$7,325.66) account and checking account (\$1,661.04) total \$8,986.70. The Net-Pen account remains at \$1,819.59. The motion to accept Tom's report, as presented above, was seconded and carried. Copies of the report were distributed to the officers and made available for the members.
- Fran Verdoliva expressed his enthusiasm for a good season on the Salmon River and called attention to open house day at the hatchery on Saturday September 24. ELOSTA will have a table with hats, tees, and sweatshirts for sale. Charlie noted that our next meeting is also at the hatchery in October. That is our election meeting and we are still looking for candidates to hold office.
- Dave MacNeill announced the passing of Larry Watts whose tireless efforts did a great deal for fishery activities. An account is being established in Larry's name to accept donations for various fisheries programs.  
He also advised the members present that a Lake Ontario Tributary Advisory Committee will be convened to ensure that Lake and tributary interests are equally represented in resource management decisions.
- Dan Bishop announced that for the first time since he assumed his current position with DEC he could say that "Region 7 is hiring another biologist". He also announced that DEC has started its promised comprehensive creel census on Lake Ontario tributaries. He emphasized the need for all stream anglers to cooperate with staff in this effort.
- Charlie then introduced Captain Bob Walters of Water Wolf Charters. Bob gave a detailed account of his musky fishing experiences and noted, with a smile, that "musky anglers have to be a little on the stupid side". Often going 5-6 days without a strike. He presented his personally produced (professional quality) underwater video of muskies in action. It is the only disk of its kind in existence. Bob stressed the fact that the musky is a fragile fish that has to be handled and returned to the water with care. He also raised questions concerning a major musky

kill of approximately 75 big fish in the 55 -60 pound range, early on in the year. Dan Bishop noted that post spawn fish with weakened immune systems were caught in shallow waters when spring temperatures soared into the nineties for a prolonged period.

- A pole of the members and Board Members present confirmed that off-shore fishing continues to be outstanding off-shore in 130 – 150 feet of water. The river is still a bit warm for a mass migration. However, large numbers of fish have been observed at the Altmar Hatcher. At the time of this meeting Howie's in wht/wht, wht,/green, wht/blueboy, and green/green were still the hot producers.
- At 8:40 PM Charlie thanked those who attended and reminded everyone that this was our last meeting at Gander for the season – our next meeting will convene at 7:00 PM at the DEC hatchery in Altmar. Persons wishing to nominate someone for office or personally volunteer should contact Charlie at 315-635-7683. *Mac MacKenzie*

### **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers**

On September 29, 2005 ELOSTA (Webmaster) received an email from Joe Starinchak, an Outreach Coordinator with the Branch of Invasive Species USF&WS. Joe's contact with us came as a follow-up to an ELOSTA website link to their "Protect Your Waters.net" website. A website for the national "stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign". Essentially, Joe invited ELOSTA to become a formal campaign partner to help get the word out to others. There is no cost to ELOSTA.

The campaign focuses on an effort to "...unite the conservation community to speak with one voice about this complex issue of aquatic invasive species and to promote environmentally-responsible recreational behaviors..." The goal is to have "... all sportsmen and women clean their equipment every time they leave the water...". For example, many of our members trailer their boats to other destinations over short periods of time. A forgotten boot full of water inadvertently dumped in another stream could cause a great deal of damage.

Joe's offer, which is consistent with ELOSTA's resource management objectives, was accepted after a brief discussion with Charlie Ames. We have since received a partnership packet and CD Rom with applicable program graphics and directives for the use of brand names and logos on our website and in our Newsletter. This program is fully explained on [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net). Access to the site can also be gained by tapping the red boat launch link on [www.elosta.org/exotics.html](http://www.elosta.org/exotics.html). *Mac*

## ***Musky Hunter***

Captain Bob Walters of Water Wolf Charters out of Oswego and Clayton presented members with a real treat at our September meeting. Bob works with Drifter Tackle and they have co-produced the only underwater musky fishing video in existence. It is a thrill to watch these 40 – 50+ pound fish hit a stickbait as long as your forearm. Bob stated, “ To a musky, all other fish in the water are just bait.”

But, it’s not that easy! Bob put it bluntly “A musky fisherman has to be a little on the stupid side”. They will often go 5-6 ten hour days without a strike. It gives the anglers plenty of time to get to know themselves. Bob went into his list of “The 5 P’s” – Personality, Presentation, Patience, Persistence, and Perseverance. All five describe anglers with a lot of boring time on their hands.

To cope with this obvious lull in the action Bob has equipped his 31 foot Cherokee to provide some interim entertainment. The boat has a heated cabin for those that know the St Lawrence in October and November. He provides magazines and other reading materials. There is lots of food and they will often prepare a hot meal on board. Then there is the underwater cameras. All this writer would need is an easy chair to call it a day.

Musky hunting tactics are not too different from those used to troll for salmon. Stickbaits and other more flashy combinations are pulled about 3.5-5 miles an hour at depths of about 30 feet – one high and one low. This is a boney river full of shoals so, even with 65# test line, it is imperative that you know where you are going. Outriggers and flat-lining are also included in the arsenal. In general the preferred colors are white and blue early and darker (perch) colors later in the season when the big fish migrate in from the lake. Muskies run in packs when migrating and once located they will take the bait.

Water Wolf Charters promotes the experience of musky hunting – not the kill. Charters agree at the onset to release the fish after it is photographed. The Clayton Chamber of Commerce will issue, free of charge, a signed and dated musky print for each fish released. In addition there are many taxidermists who can faithfully reproduce the image of the released fish with fiberglass forms.

At the present time the St Lawrence River is producing the largest muskies in the country. Bob’s personal goal is the world record ..... *Mac*

### ***CHECK THIS FISH CAM OUT***

Lake Superior University Aquatics Research Lab (ARL) with the help of outside sponsors has installed an underwater video camera in one of the discharge tunnels of the Edison Sault Hydroelectric Generating Station. The viewer has the opportunity to observe fish, mostly Atlantics, in a natural situation. This setup would add a nice touch to the Salmon River Hatchery. The website is [www.issu.edu/ar1/fishcam.php](http://www.issu.edu/ar1/fishcam.php)