

Elosta Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday September 20, 2006

Minutes

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

- Vice President Doug Fuegel called the seventh monthly meeting of 2006 to order at 7:10 PM in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Charlie Ames and Treasurer Tom Lott were unable to attend the meeting. Thirty eight members/guests were present and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.
- Doug motioned to accept the minutes of the August 16 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- Doug read the Treasurer's Report provided by Tom Lott for the period August 17 – September 20, 2006. There were no deposits for the period. Checks written to Libby Lougnot (editing the Newsletter), Mac MacKenzie (office supplies), Sharyn Lott (refreshments), Encompass Printing (Newsletter), and Jerry Lougnot totaled \$617.61. Elosta's current balance in the checking and savings accounts is \$10,596.75. The net-pen remains unchanged (no activity) at \$1566.25. Motion to accept – seconded – carried.
- At 7:30PM Doug turned the floor over to Captain Dick Withey, owner and operator of Sunset Charters on Skaneateles Lake. Dick, a life long resident on the lake, claims that it is now one of the hottest fishing holes around for Atlantic salmon, rainbow and lake trout. His largest lake trout for the year exceeded 20 pounds. Needlefish, the small one, are the preferred baits.

Dick dispensed with basics regarding the use of downriggers. He explained that the structure in Skaneateles is precipitous and assumed that most of the members present were big lake anglers experienced in the use of dipseys and downriggers in such situations. Perhaps his most important tip for the evening was not to become locked into a particular technique or presentation that worked on previous outings. Talk to other anglers from other lakes and rivers and experiment with their suggestions.

With this in mind, Dick caught the undivided attention of the members with an age old technique recommended by landlocked anglers from Lake Winnepesaukee NH. He rigged a light weight flipping stick with a level wind reel spooled with 10# Power Pro. No stretch there. The boat is located over the fish and he jigs vertically with ½ to ¾ oz. jigs heads tipped with three inch white tube lures. The jig is dropped straight down some 40 to 60 feet; it doesn't have to be near the bottom or the fish. They can see it coming (on the drop), and will streak up from below to hit it in the gin clear water. Imagine a ten pound trout or and agile salmon on this rig? Dick is eager to try this system on the big lake but, a calm day out there is a rare occurrence these days.

The end of the salmon season on Ontario indicates the return the lakers and rainbows to the cooling surface waters of Skaneateles. Dick recommended trolling flat lines over the back of the boat and from planer boards. He said, "...keep an open mind.." but, in general, dark colors work best on over cast days and lighter colors produce better in sunlight. He prefers black/white, perch, and pearl scale on copper bodies. For Atlantic salmon he uses tandem un-weighted streamers trolled at 2.8 – 3.2 mph. Playing with the throttle and running S-turns to create subtle changes in presentation can make all the difference.

In general, Dick says “There is no such thing as too much tackle” He can be reached at 315.685.8176. A trip out with him in his 26 foot Penn Yan is the best way to get the hang of fishing this lake.

- At 8PM Doug thanked Dick and introduced Tim Noga Region 4 Vice President of the New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC). Tim explained what the NYSCC is all about. In general they maintain a sportsman’s vigil in Albany and alert sportsmen and women to significant legislative proposals such as fiscal appropriations, fish and wildlife legislation, regulation changes, water sports, and anti lobbyist efforts etc.. The Council also meets first hand with our representatives during the rule making and the regulatory development process to ensure that angler’s concerns are considered along with resource requirements.

Tim emphasized that all this work is done by volunteers who (at considerable hardship) donate their time to this effort. Funding, which is obtained through individual memberships, Council activities, and contributions is always in short supply. A motion from the floor recommending that ELOSTA contribute to this effort was tabled pending the forthcoming meeting of the Board of Directors. Consideration is being given to, among others, the Council’s “buck a member drive”. Jerry Loughnot pointed out that our last contribution to this cause was in the form of a new computer. www.nyscc.com

- Oswego Federation Delegate, Bill Lefancheck, reported the Redfield Reservoir boat ramp is paved and repairs to the dam are completed.

Governor Pataki has signed a bill to allow 14-20 year olds to practice pistol shooting while under the direct supervision of a person with a current permit.

Roy Abbot of the Federation has been appointed to the council in charge of the rehabilitation of Lake Neatahwanta in Fulton. USGS studies recommend dredging silt clogged bottom springs to reopen a source of fresh water. The old paper mill dam should be replaced with flood control gates and, Tannery Creek should be dredged. Grants are being sought to finance these proposals,

There is a rumor that BOCES is reconsidering its requirement to charge the sportsmen’s groups \$100 per session to hold their meetings in their Mexico facility?

- Doug Fuegel asked for volunteers to help sell Elostta clothing at our booth at the Altmar hatchery on Saturday 23rd.

- Mike Roche reported that the Onondaga Federation of Sportsmen will be participating in the September 23rd “Family Day” at DEC’s Carpenter Brook Hatchery. There will be a lot going on.

- Dan Bishop spoke briefly about the recent Lake Placid Steelhead Symposium sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The five day event focused on steelhead issues nationwide and it appears that we are in better shape than some of the western States.

- Gerry Bresadola has called it a season and will be hauling the “Dixie Dandy” in a week or so. In general he thought we had a good year but, not quite as good as last year. As a parting thought he noted that the AM and PM bite was not as good as mid-day; a complete turn around from last year.

- Gerry Loughnot reported that on any given day the perch fishing on Oneida Lake can be great; but, you have to look around a bit to locate them.

- Jake and June Howell reported that their son and ELOSTA member Steve Howell, captain of “TEAM DOUBLEDUP” caught two striped bass weighing over 35 pounds while competing in the fourth stop of the Wal-Mart FLW Striper Series in West Dennis Mass. The two fish taken in their first two trolling passes earned the team the \$20,000 cash prize and a \$15,000 Yamaha bonus.
- Doug called attention to the Altmar Hatchery outing on the 23rd and his motion to close the meeting at 8:55PM was seconded and carried. The next monthly meeting will be at the Altmar Fish Hatchery at 7PM on October 18th.*Mac MacKenzie*