

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 19, 2009

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the sixth monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:15 PM on August 19th in the meeting room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Twenty three members/guests were in attendance and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned that the minutes in the June Newsletter be accepted as they appeared in the Newsletter. Two corrections were raised from the floor. Dan Bishop pointed out that he did not make a correlation between reported increases in the numbers of Atlantic salmon with an increase in Canada's stocking efforts. Zane McFadden pointed out that the reference to the shallow penetration of UV into water is incorrect. He explained that UV actually penetrates deeper than visible light into water. With these corrections noted a motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as written.

Tom Lott gave a detailed summary of payments and account transfers as they appeared in his Financial Report for the period July 17 – August 14, 09. Checks, totaling \$1310.13 were written for cash box cash (picnic), Gander Mountain door prizes, award plaques, Taylor Rental sound system, Newsletter editing, and Newsletter printing. Deposits from the picnic, ad fees, and donations totaled \$2918.00. Elosta's current combined savings and checking accounts total \$15,001.40 including the \$1918.17 remaining in the Pro-Am netpen account. The deposit from Mike's Little Salmon River Challenge will appear in next month's netpen summary. Copies of Tom's Report were made available to the Officers and Board members present.

Tom also presented a financial summary for the picnic and derby including, a comparison with previous years. A motion from the floor to accept the report as presented was seconded and unanimously carried.

At 7:30 pm President Ames introduced Brian Hammond a local walleye angler from Cicero NY. Brian and his team mate Kevin Hinus from Randolph NY participated in the Cabela's Team Championship walleye tournament at Devil's Lake ND on July 25 & 26 - 09. The Oneida Lake team placed a respectable 10th in a field of 268 boats.

Brian enthusiastically outlined the pre-qualifying requirements and their experiences on Devil's Lake. This large lake is a interconnected complex of relatively shallow lakes that average 10-15 feet deep. It is actually a self contained geologic basin with no currently active natural outlets. At the present time lake levels are annually increasing which provides miles of shoreline and a relatively large area of fishable man-made and natural structure. The team traveled 23 miles to fish.

He emphasized that "... Consistency is the key to success..." They stayed with a prior week's, pre-tournament, plan to spend their 10-12 hour days fishing selected wind washed shores and a submerged RR road bed. The water was cold, a little colored and, at times, it would be no more than four feet deep. They used 4-6 foot leaders with pencil bottom bouncers and worm rigs that allowed them to keep constant contact with the

structure. In general the various tactics they used are well known to walleye anglers everywhere. Five fish a day were allowed per team. A nine pound fish was the largest entered in the tournament. .

An extensive effort is being made to keep Devil's Lake free of "Aquatic Nuisance Species" (ANS). All boats trailers, and accessory equipment entered in the tournament had to have their boats inspected at a designated station. Inspections and sticker requirements had to be completed prior to launch. Non -inspected boats would lose their queue; and, continued non-compliance would result in disqualification. This is a premier walleye fishery and ND intends to keep it that way.

The tournament will be aired on Versus at the end August.

Charlie called upon Doug Fuegel who expressed concern about the passage of an amendment to NYS's Navigation Law. He stated that the law would now require every person on boats 18' or greater to wear a life jacket from November until May 1st. There was some discussion and disagreement from the floor regarding the actual wording of the change. In a follow-up, out of meeting revision, Doug reported that the law had been changed to apply the life jacket requirement to all boats under 23 feet for the specified winter period, including row boats and canoes.

Doug also mentioned rumors regarding a new spring water bottling plant in Lewis County? Dan Bishop was unaware of such a proposal. In a follow -up it was found that a new bulk bottling facility is being proposed on a tributary of the Black River in the Town of Grieg south of Lowville.

Dan Bishop reported the completion of low head lamprey barrier on Orwell Creek. The barrier should reduce the costs of future upstream lamprey treatments.

The question was raised again concerning the acquisition of access to Sandy Pond. Dan reiterated the fact that the funds are available to acquire the Sandy Pond public access site. However, an ongoing disagreement between the owners of the estate continues to hold things up.

Cormorant control measures, which are subject to Congressional renewal, are back in place.

Dan also reported that the various improvements to the fish holding capability of various pools on the Salmon River have been completed. He said that the trail system along the river is also being improved to reduce the potential for accelerated erosion due to boot traffic. Bill Lefancheck reported similar discussions at the Federation meeting.

Comments from the floor suggest that fishing on the big lake continues to be slow. One or two fish in the box represents the norm. However, fishing is and the occasional full cooler is possible. Some say "it's like the old days out there" the fish seem to prefer spoons. Oneida Lake continues to be "good and bad" depending on who you talk to.

Jerry Lougnot reported that all the advertisers except one are now current.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM. Next meeting is at 7PM, September 16 at Gander Mountain in Cicero. As always, walk-ins and their input are welcomed. **Mac MacKenzie**

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

As time goes by we are all subject to certain afflictions that have SOME?? impact on our ability to, let's say, keep up. I have been Secretary of ELOSTA for a number of years and, with each subsequent meeting I find that is it becoming more difficult for me to hear and accurately record what is being said *in a meeting room environment*. I usually tell my wife that she mumbles. However, I don't think that the members attending our meetings would buy into that? Well, maybe some of you would. That would be the guys who stand around nodding their heads and smiling a lot. It is with that in mind that I have decided it is time to back off and encourage someone else to "give it a shot". You all know, the "I will not seek and I will not run" thing. **Mac**