

## VILLA PARK SPORTSMAN'S CLUB



### **Program:**

Our next meeting is Wednesday December 3, 2014. This will be our Christmas Party. Bring a dish to share. The Club will supply ham, sodas, and coffee.

### **Future Programs and Scheduled Events:**

January 7, 2015 – Regular Meeting..

February 4, 2015 – Regular Meeting..

March 4, 2015 – Regular Meeting..

### **BYOB Fishing:**

Where's your favorite fishing hole? Call and we'll set up a meet; Joe Nutt, Gary Buehre, or Adolph Janke.

### **Check out our web site:** [www.great-lakes.org/vpsc](http://www.great-lakes.org/vpsc).

You are just a click away from pictures of Salmon and Walleye trips, previous news letters and more about our Villa Park Sportsmen's Club. Send information to be posted on the web site to Joe Nutt.

### **From the 'Midwest Outdoors' web site.** <http://midwestoutdoors.com/magazine>

From the November 2014 issue

## **First Ice, Are You Ready?**

**By Mike Cyze**

It's inevitable; one day very soon here in the Midwest we are going to wake up and find our favorite fishing water has turned to ice. I don't know about you, but I look forward to this happening as it signals that another season of drilling holes in the ice and catching fish has arrived. Over the years, the first safe ice season of the year has proven to be one of the best times to be out on the hard water in search of your favorite fish species. Hopefully, when this occurs, you will be ready to go.

With that thought in mind, now is the time to get that ice fishing equipment out of its storage location and give it a good once over so that you are all set to go.

One of the most neglected pieces of equipment is the ice auger that is used for drilling holes in the ice. This tool seems to get bounced around and dropped all over the place. When this happens, damage can occur to its cutting surface. If damaged, even slightly, your ability to cut fast, clean holes through the ice will be greatly diminished. Hence you will have to work much harder cutting those holes.

Whatever type of ice auger you use, be it a spoon type or the more popular drill style, keeping it razor sharp is essential. This is a service that you can perform yourself. One word of caution,

though, always wear a good pair of leather gloves when working with the razor sharp area of the auger. It can cut you very quickly if you slip and touch the blade. Again, use extreme caution. I have been using a great gas powered ice auger made by Polar Fire and have had excellent results with it's dependability and great performance. I use the eight-inch hole size model PFPX 438 and find this size works great for most applications. If you prefer another size hole cut, check out the Polar Fire website ([www.polarfiregear.com](http://www.polarfiregear.com)). I'm sure you will find the gas auger you need and be glad you got it.

To sharpen the blade, you will need a good, flat metal file. Hold the file at approximately a 45-degree angle to the blades surface and lightly stroke the file across the length of the cutting surface. Give the blade several strokes, the same way you do when sharpening a knife. Don't use heavy pressure with the file, just a light, firm pressure. Usually, depending on how dull the blade is, a few strokes is all that's necessary to get the blade back to good cutting condition. A little trick that I found works well is to put a few drops of oil on the blade before you start with the file. This seems to help the file glide along as it sharpens.

Okay, now that the auger is all done, it's time to check the ice fishing rods. Assuming you put the rods away properly at the end of last season, this part should be relatively easy. Start by removing the old line from your reels. While doing this you also want to check and clean the reels themselves for any damage. This is also a great time to oil them lightly, making sure you use a thin machine oil. After cleaning the reels, install some fresh line of your choice and the reel should be ready to go for another season of service.

As for the ice fishing rods, you will first want to check for any damage. Make sure you thoroughly check the line guides where the line passes through. For this, simply take a cotton ball and lightly run it through the guide being checked. If there are any nicks or deep scratches, the cotton ball will snag on them, showing you where they are. If you find any, you can usually fix them by using a small piece of emery cloth to lightly sand the area smooth once again. If the damage is too deep, you may want to opt for replacing the damaged guide. These can be purchased fairly cheaply at most tackle shops.

After checking the rods and making any necessary repairs, it's time to give the rods a good cleaning. To wash, you can simply use a mild dish soap that's mixed with some warm water. Wash down the rod and you'll be surprised at the dirt that comes off after last season's use. Dry the rod well with a soft towel and you're set for the next step.

Re-assemble the reel onto the rod and run the fresh line up through the rod guides. Now, simply attach one of your favorite ice lures to the line and the complete set-up is ready for catching fish.

In regards to ice lures, now is also a good time to organize your selection. By getting them in order now, you will save the hassle of searching for a particular lure when out on the ice. You'll know right where it is. You can organize by size, color or whatever method you wish. You can keep your selection in a small, clear, plastic bait box so that you can see what's where before you open it. Make sure you use a box that is made for fishing lures, because some regular plastic boxes will react with certain plastic baits and cause a big mess of semi-melted goo.

Moving right along, it's time to do a clothing check. This is actually a very important part of having an enjoyable outing on the ice. Believe me, there is nothing more uncomfortable than being cold or wet when in the outdoors.

Check your boots for any damage. Any spots found should be repaired if possible or replaced as necessary. Keeping your feet warm is essential to keeping the rest of you warm. For extra comfort, wear a pair of wool socks over a pair of regular socks. This way you will not feel the itch of the wool, but still get the warmth benefits.

Next comes the hat and gloves. The head and hands are two more areas that demand good clothing to stay comfortable in the cold. The newer Thinsulate materials that are available are excellent. Thinsulate is available in most clothing designed for cold weather use. You'll be glad you have it on. For quite a few years now I have been wearing long underwear made out of Thinsulate when outdoors in the cold and have found it works excellently. Whatever you wear, make sure it's breathable, allowing body moisture escape.

Finally, check the snowsuit or other outerwear you use. Give it the once over for rips and tears. Make any necessary repairs now.

The things I've talked about this month can be done in just a few hours of your time. The best part is that by doing them now, you won't have to waste time later, because one day soon we are going to wake up in the morning and find the water has turned hard for another season. When this happens, it's ice fishing time. Get out and enjoy.

Till next time, take care and I'll see you on the "hard" water.

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We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the North Terrace Pond Clubhouse on Westmont and Terrace (approximately 6 blocks south of North Avenue and 3 blocks west of Addison) in Villa Park. Annual dues are \$30. Visitors or prospective new members are welcome - a \$3 fee is requested. If you are interested in attending or becoming a member please contact: Marty Kapolczynski at (630) 932-1923.