

A Legacy of Innovation
Since 1969

September, 2008



Perseverance Pays Off

by Roger Shaffer

We hooked the 5th wheel and boat to the truck for the 240-mile drive to Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir for a walleye tournament. The reservoir is between Twin Falls, Idaho and Jackpot, Nevada. We always look forward to fishing this tournament as it's a good walleye fishery and we have a lot of friends in the area.

We pulled into the federal camp ground at the lake at noon on June 10 and were looking forward to a couple days of prefishing before the tournament. The walleyes at this time of year are usually located at the upper end of the lake about a seven mile run from the boat launch.

We put the Crestliner in the water at 6:30 Wednesday and my 175 hp Yamaha made short work of getting us up lake to Grey's landing. Grey's landing is one of our go-to spots. Sand and volcanic rock gradually taper out to 20 feet deep and then drop off into 35 to 50 feet of water in the main channel. The walleyes in the morning are in the shallower flats feeding on minnows, crawdads and perch.

Water temps were in the high 60s as we put out Rapala Husky Jerks on planer boards and cranked the kicker to 1.8 mph. Eight fish and about 1 1/2 hours later we had one walleye and seven rainbows in the boat. Did I mention the lake

is full of trout? Rainbow were not what we came to fish for.

We were marking a lot of fish on the deep water break on the Lowrance. My wife Debbie wanted to put out the "Walleye Magnets" on bottom bouncers and fish the edge of the break in about 20 feet of water. My wife calls the Mack's Lure Smile Blades our "Walleye Magnets."

Bingo! A couple of passes running small hot pink and a chartreuse Smile Blades both in fire tiger patterns produced six walleyes up to 22 inches.

The fish were there, and they're on a smiley bite, so we left and didn't beat them up, saving them for tournament day.

For the rest of the day and the next two days we fished different parts of the upper lake and it was the same every where we went. We were into fish and the Smile Blade spinners were the hot producers in pink and chartreuse. These particular harnesses I'd tied up using a small red bead then a soft glow in the dark green bead and then another red bead topped off with a Smile Blade.

Saturday morning at 6:00 am the tournament director blasted off 46 boats for a chance at \$14,000 in prize money. That first day, we boated 37 walleyes out of Grey's Landing running a 30-inch bottom bouncer, hot pink and chartreuse Smile Blades. We had a six-fish limit of 'eyes that went from 18 to 21 inches.

At this point is where the good luck ended and bad luck began. I fired up the 175 Yamaha for the run back to the weigh-in, hit the down trim switch and nothing happened. None of the three trim switches would work. The motor

Nothing like catching a truly monster walleye. But catching one like this 13-pounder during a tournament will really get your heart pounding!



was stuck in the full trimmed out position. The boat would not come up on plane. We were running out of time to get back to the weigh dock before our 3:00 pm check in time and a late penalty.

Searching our options I filled the front live well for more weight up front, transferred our fish up front, drained the back live well and put my wife on the bow and finally got the boat up on plane. At the weigh-in, we were in the top 15!

Back at camp I pulled the hood of the Yamaha and tried to figure out what I could do to get us fishing Sunday. I finally figured out the down trim solenoid was out but the up solenoid was working because now I had the motor trimmed all the way up in the tow position and couldn't get it down. Well that was it. I told Debbie we were dead in the water and couldn't fish Sunday. We both went to bed disappointed as all get out.

Laying in bed at 6:00 am Sunday morning we listened to the rest of the tournament boats blast off.

Debbie jump out of bed and said, "Put the boat in the water we will run up lake on the 8 hp kicker!" Geez Deb I told her it would take us at least two hours to make that run and two hours back to get us in on time, which would leave us maybe four hours of fishing time. She said we've never quit before and were not quitting now. Put the boat in the water "NOW".

It was turning into a heck of a Father's Day. By the time we launched and hammered the 8 horse it was 7:00 am and we were heading up lake at a blistering speed of 5.2 mph.

All the way up lake I was thinking what a waste of time and gas. At 8:40 am we finally pulled into Grey's landing and put our four bottom-bouncing rods in the water with our Smiley harnesses on.

By 11:00 am we had four weighers in the boat and I was feeling a little better about deciding to go out. I had a marker buoy out on the edge of the drop off and I would swing out past the buoy and turn around. Most of the fish would

pick up the Smiley harness as it would fall off the 20-foot depth range and down the drop off into 35 feet of water.

Not as many fish today as the past couple of days, but they had been hammered pretty hard by us and a few other tournament boats.

At about 11:30, Steve and Cathy, a couple of friends of ours from Willard, Utah pulled into Grey's and were shocked to see us there. "You get the trim fixed?" they asked. I said "No, we got down here on the kicker." They just shook their heads.

A short time later I pulled past the buoy and had a solid hook up. Bingo!



This was a good fish. Two hard, head-shaking runs and the fish came unbut-toned. The bad luck's back!

About the time my fish came loose Debbie says kind of calmly, "I've got a big fish on."

Hitting the autopilot towards deep water on the MinnKota Terrova, I went to the back of the boat. Her 7-foot Loomis rod had a snag-looking bend to it and the Fireline was slowly peeling off her Abu Garcia C4. "You hung up?" I asked and about that time I could see the thumping and throbbing in her rod, indicating a heavy fish. Maybe the good luck's back!

After three or four minutes she finally

started gaining some line back. Standing at the back of the boat with the net I finally got a look at the fish as it rolled on the surface. "Debbie don't horse this fish, it's a monster!"

It was funny because as the big female rolled and dove I could see she had the back #6 hook in her upper jaw and the chartreuse Smile Blade was spinning as she swam off.

After another couple of minutes and two line-peeling runs, Debbie got the fish up to where I got a good head first net shot and she was ours!

As I lifted her into the boat I told Debbie that this was at least 34 to 36 inches long. We have caught quite a few 30- to 31 1/2-inch eyes and this one dwarfed them. Laying the fish on the hog trough ruler, she hung past the 30-inch mark by at least 5 inches.

"Deb you just caught a PIG of a walleye." Putting her in the front live well she filled the box from end to end.

The next 45 minutes of fishing was an anticlimax but we did manage to put one more weigher in the boat for a six-fish limit. It was time to head back for our 1 1/2 hour ride back to the docks. Believe me the ride back was a lot more fun than the trip out!

We were the first ones back for our flight and I put the five smaller fish in one Berkley weigh bag and the big one in a second. I put the bags in a fresh water holding tank outside the weigh tent and someone went in and told the weigh master that boat #26 had TWO bags of fish to weigh. I heard him say, "Two bags, what the heck is going on, they can't weigh two bags."

He walked outside and I showed him the big eye and he said, "Look at the size of that walleye... we'll weigh two bags!"

As it turned out the fish measured 35 1/4 inches and weighed in at 12.87 #. Debbie's fish broke the Idaho Walleyes Unlimited club record by over three pounds, and as far as we know she has the catch and release record for Idaho. The Idaho state biologist and fish & game told us that if that fish would have

Perseverance... cont. on page 4

There's More than One Way...

By Hall of Fame Angler Stan Fagerstrom

Part two of two

There's good reason why the Mack's Lure Stan's Spin catches more than its share of fish on a slow retrieve.

If you read my last column, you'll recall I told how my wife uses her Stan's Spin spinnerbait. I detailed how she sits there in the stern seat of my bass boat and retrieves her spinnerbait two or three times more slowly than I usually do. I also pointed out how sometimes the result is she catches more fish.

As I've mentioned, there are good reasons why this happens. One reason is the way the Stan's Spin is constructed. The Pro Model has two blades but one of them is made of Mylar plastic.

It's this easy-turning Mylar blade that makes a big difference between the Pro Model Stan's Spin and other spinnerbaits. This durable plastic blade continues to turn where a metal blade won't. You won't find another spinnerbait blade that spins as easily. The Stan's Spin's lightweight blade continues to function where a heavier metal blade simply flops to the bottom.

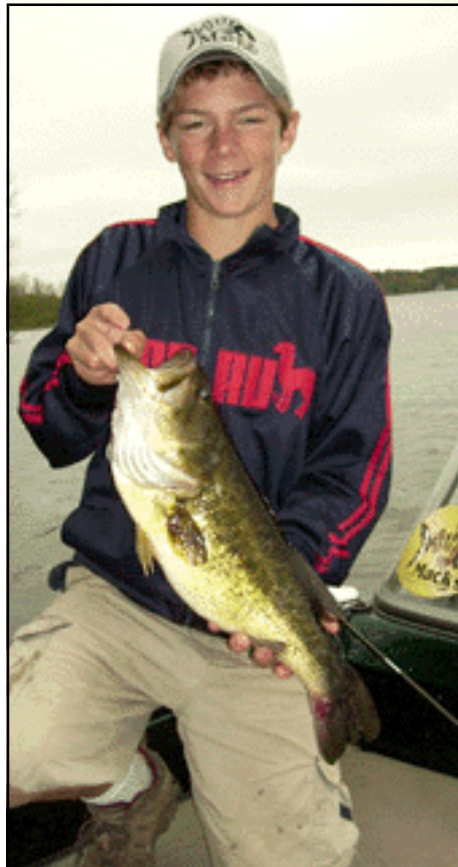
And that's not the only reason that a slow retrieve sometimes is your best bet. You don't have to fish bass long to discover that bumping your lure off cover sometimes is an excellent way to trigger strikes. A good bit of the cover where bass are prone to hang out is often found down close to the bottom.

Retrieve a spinnerbait as quickly

as many of us are inclined to do and the lure won't get down where the boulders, submerged tree stumps or whatever is located. Your lure can't bump the cover, and possibly trigger strikes, if it's coming back to the boat way up above the spots where the fish are holding.

There are a couple of other techniques to keep in mind when you're throwing a Stan's Spin. Neither of these procedures is at all involved but they are well worth building into your spinnerbait technique.

The first is to cast right up next to whatever the cover happens to be and just let it your spinnerbait fall straight



down. Once it gets down where you think fish might be holding, give a sharp flip of your rod tip to cause the lure to dart back up and away.

I've nailed some dandy bass doing exactly that. One of the lakes I once fished often had lots of old piling. Some of the lake's larger bass could often be found hanging around the area where the pilings were located. I'd sneak up to within 30 feet of one of these piling and cast my spinnerbait right up to where it poked out of the water.

Many of the pilings were in water 10 to 12-feet deep. I found what worked most often was to let my spinnerbait sink about eight feet before I snapped up with my rod tip. Every now and then one of the potbellied bigmouth that had been eyeballing the lure as it dropped just couldn't restrain itself when the bait suddenly darted away. They surged up to grab it.

The second technique is somewhat similar. Simply cast your spinnerbait into a likely looking spot and let it fall all the way to the bottom. Leave it alone for a couple of heartbeats, then yank it up off the bottom and begin reeling. Keep a good grip on your rod. Now and then I've had a heavyweight almost jerk the rod out of my hands when they smashed my Stan's Spin going away.

As I mentioned in the beginning, there is usually more than one way to do darn near anything. Day in and day out your Mack's Lure Pro Model Stan's Spin is just about as dependable a bass bait as your bucks can buy, but you've got to give it its best chance to produce.

Trying the different procedures I've shared with you in these last two columns is a good way to do that.

Big bass fall for the Stan's Spin, as Dawson Barringer can attest.

Perseverance... from page 2

been caught during the spawn or in the fall it could have weighed 18 to 20 pounds. We did release the fish and are having a replica made of her.

We cashed checks for 7th place in the tournament, won the mixed couples award, heavy bag award, and the big fish award. We actually made more money than the 2nd place team did.

At the awards ceremony we did tell and show about 200 people what we were using. I'm sure there will be a run on Mack's Smile Blades in Idaho!

It turned out to be a great Fathers Day despite a down motor and thanks to a determined partner and my best friend, Debbie.

I want to thank Mack's Lure for a great fish-catching product that has helped us put wood on the wall and cash numerous tournament checks. Not to mention catching the fish of a lifetime.

Photo of the Month

We want your photos! Send your photos to bernie@mackslure.com.



Peter Rogalka of Winnipeg, Manitoba likes the new Mack's Lure HummBait. This 38-inch northern pike likes it too! The fish was caught on June 6th 2008 at Lake of the Prairies, Manitoba on a 1/4-ounce glo white HummBait.

Welcome to our new monthly question feature! Feel free to contact us at bernie@mackslure.com if you have a question you would like to see featured!

Q: Why is the Mack's Lure Wedding Ring referred to by that name?

A: The Wedding Ring spinner has a ring around the middle between two stack beads that has sparkly stones in it. These

Question of the Month

bright shiny sparkling objects make it look like a diamond ring. These sparkles are great fish attractors, especially in clear water, and have made this one of our best selling lures because of its productivity for many species including walleye, salmon, trout and steelhead.

The Mack Attack is a free service provided to anyone who is interested by Mack's Lures Inc. We need your input! If you know of anyone who would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Mack Attack, please forward their e-mail address to al@mackslure.com.

Photos, stories and comments are welcomed and encouraged. Please forward all content materials to bernie@mackslure.com.

THANK YOU!

A Legacy of Innovation
Since 1969

