

If winter should return, here are tips for ice fishing

The recent January thaw has wreaked havoc on southern Michigan lakes as ice fishing has come to a halt. There is currently no safe ice in the area. In fact, most lakes sport open water.

Winter will inevitably return and the local lakes will, hopefully, freeze solid enough so the ice fishing opportunities will return. When winter reappears don't be so anxious to get out on the ice that you throw caution to the wind.

Here are a few safety tips to remember when contemplating a trip out on the ice:

- Always check ice conditions before venturing out.
- The best ice is hard, blue ice. When ice has a gray or whitish tint to it or is full of bubbles and

air pockets it's smart to stay on shore.

- Ice thickness can sometimes be misleading. Thin ice up to three inches that has frozen solid and remains frozen can often be safer than five or six inches of ice that has frozen, thawed and frozen again. Ice that is soft or mushy, or tends to give way when weight is placed on it should be avoided.

- Be aware of ice-covered rivers and river mouths. Moving water will keep ice from freezing and leave many rivers and river mouths unsafe.

- Sunny warm weather can work in safe ice during the course of the afternoon so be sure to periodically check the ice if you stay out for an extended period of time. Look for puddles forming on top of the ice and watch to see if the ice is beginning to melt or bow in the area in which you are fishing.

- If you fall through stay calm and call for help. Try to pull yourself out in the direction you

came from. Extend your arms to keep your head above the water and kick with your feet. Try to roll out of the hole and use the ice or ice creepers if you have them to help you grip the ice. When you get out of the water roll well away from the hole before standing up. Remember, the added weight of the water on your clothes will make you heavier and prone to breaking through again, so don't try to stand up immediately.

- Shed your wet clothes for dry ones as soon as possible since hypothermia can begin to take hold in as little as four minutes.

- If you're with someone who falls through the ice throw them a rope, pole, ladder, hose, jacket or anything available. Do not, by any means, run out to the hole and try to pull someone out.
- Consider purchasing a fishing jacket with a personal flotation device built into it.
- Be sure to carry, creepers or spikes in your pockets so they

are available if you do fall through.

- Keep a rope, hose or life saving device handy if you live on a lake or plan to spend time on a lake.
- Finally, treat all ice as if it's unsafe. Don't cross unfamiliar ice without first checking it out.

Keep these safety precautions in mind when the ice returns and have a fun, safe, successful ice fishing season.

Deer season 2nd safest

The 1997 firearms deer season, which saw nearly 750,000 hunters take to the field, was the second safest on record according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement officials. There were 27 hunting accidents in the 1996 season, including two fatalities. Last year was the safest season on record with a total of 16 accidents and one fatal.

"Firearms deer season remains a safe recreational pursuit, due to the successful efforts of hunter safety education in Michigan and the overall compliance of almost 750,000 hunters with laws and safety guidelines," said Herb Burns, chief of the DNR's Law Enforcement Division.

"Over half the accidents and at least one of the fatalities were clearly the result of actions which constituted violations of law or safety rules."

A quick look at the accidents seems to underline that fact.

Eight non-fatal accidents and one fatal accident occurred when one hunter shot another while attempting to shoot a deer. (Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.)

In separate incidents, four young hunters between the ages of 14 and 17 accidentally shot themselves in the foot or lower leg. (Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction and keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.)

One fatal and three non-fatal accidents occurred when a hunter was mistaken for a deer. (Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.)

Two non-fatal accidents occurred while a hunter was loading a firearm. (Know your firearm and its ammunition.)

Two individuals were injured by stray bullets in separate incidents while they were inside a dwelling. Two others were injured by ricochets. (Be sure of your target and what is beyond

your target.)

One non-fatal accident occurred when a hunter grabbed another hunter's gun by the barrel and another occurred when someone was treating a loaded gun as if it were loaded.)

The shooters and the reason for the other two accidents are unknown.

While this season stands out as the second safest on record, 27 accidents is still 27 too many. Hunter safety classes and the mandate for hunters orange have gone a long way in improving the safety of our sport, but we must continue to strive for an accident-free season.

Always be sure every member of your hunting party is aware of and practices the Ten Commandments of Hunter Safety. Everyone wants to be successful and bring home a big trophy, but when the quest for success clouds your judgment accidents can and do occur.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are welcome, too. Send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. For information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9810 or (313) 835-2110 for additional information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-8192; Kenansville, 1-800-477-3178.

WINTER STARS

Homeschoolers at the fourth-

grade level or higher will learn the winter constellations during this two-hour indoor program, which begins at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Indian Springs. There is a \$1 fee per child, pre-registration is required. Participants should bring a light colored T-shirt.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

SUNDAY SNOWSHOES

Explore winter wonders on snowshoes during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at Independence Oaks.

TUNING YOUR TOT INTO WINTER

A nature program for children ages 3-6 including a hike, stories, snacks, crafts and more will be offered at 10 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 21 and 22, at Independence Oaks. The

program will be offered again at 1 p.m. and at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24.

OWL PROWL

Learn about the different kinds of owls found in Michigan then take a hike to hear some resident owls during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

BIRD HIKE

Bring your binocular and enjoy a guided bird hike during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Maybury.

GREAT SAVINGS!

BRAND NEW STEEL RADIALS!

4 FOR	P155/80R-13	\$40
	P165/80R-13 P175/80R-13 P185/80R-13	\$50
	175/70R-13 P205/75R-15 P185/76R-14 P215/75R-15 P185/75R-14 P225/75R-15 P205/76R-14 P235/75R-15	\$80

RADIAL ALL SEASON	PREMIUM ALL SEASON	METRIC ALL SEASON
\$20	\$40	\$35

P175/80R-13 23.99 P185/76R-14 31.99 P185/75R-14 32.99 P205/76R-14 32.99 P235/75R-15 32.99	P185/75R-14 41.99 P205/75R-14 41.99 P215/75R-14 42.99 P225/75R-14 42.99 P235/75R-15 42.99	185/70R-13 38.99 185/70R-14 37.99 195/70R-14 38.99 205/70R-14 39.99 205/70R-15 39.99 205/55R-14 39.99
---	---	--

PERFORMANCE RADIALS TRUCK VAN & R.V. CUSTOM WHEELS

\$35	\$35	
215/70R-13 36.99 185/60R-14 41.99 185/60R-14 41.99 185/60R-14 39.99 215/60R-16 52.99	175/70R-13 36.99 P235/75R-15 50.00 30-950R-15 62.50 P31-1050R-15 62.50 245/70R-16 70.99	HUNDREDS OF STYLES AVAILABLE AT AT FANTASTIC PRICES!

BFGoodrich MICHELIN GOODYEAR

Radial T/A \$35 P185/70R-13 44.99 P185/70R-14 48.99 P185/70R-14 48.99 P205/70R-15 52.99	MICHELIN XW4 / XZ4 \$65 P215/70R-14 XW4 72.99 P215/70R-14 XZ4 81.99 P235/70R-15 XW4 84.99	GOODYEAR TOURING EDITION \$45 P175/70R-13 48.99 P185/70R-14 48.99 P185/70R-14 54.99 P205/70R-15 58.99
---	--	---

Radial All-Terrain T/A \$70 L212175R-15C 78.99 30-950R-16 81.99 30-1050R-16 81.99 L3045775R-16D 113.99	OUR 65,000 MILE WARRANTY MXV4 PLEASE CALL FOR LOW PRICE! X-ONE	EAGLE RH \$55 P205/70R-14 68.99 P215/70R-14 68.99 P225/70R-15 72.99
--	--	--

DISCOUNT TIRE CO. INC.

TAYLOR • 274-8888 7044 Laramie Rd. • 1 mi. west of I-75 WATKINS • 681-8280 4301 Highland Rd. (E. of Pomac Lane #12) TRIVY • 688-8081 3475 Rochester Rd. (North of I-75) STERLING HEIGHTS • 638-9780 40425 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of I-75 & Van Dyke) ROSELAND • 347-1801 4790 Grand River Ave. (E. of Now Rd.)	FARMINGTON HILLS • 737-7412 30720 W. 13 Mile Rd. (E. of Orchard Lake Rd.) CLINTON TOWNSHIP • 780-1800 3363 Grand Ave. (I-96 & 15 Mile Rd.) NEW BALTIMORE • 949-0390 2126 23rd Street (West of I-96) CENTERLINE • 610-784-1880 20625 Van Dyke LIVONIA • 414-4510 18715 Mackwood (E. of I-75 & South of I-96)	CANTON • 981-8800 41500 Old Rd. (E. of I-75 & I-96) BENTLEYVILLE • 288-8226 17360 Lura (Intersect from Sunnyside Shopping Center) YPSILANTI • 482-8601 101 E. Michigan E. ANN ARBOR • 971-2400 2411 Washtenaw W. ANN ARBOR • 788-2110 2770 W. Stadium
---	--	--

Heat up your winter at

TIGERFEST '98

BRIAN HUNTER
1997 M.L. Sicken Base Leader

FUN FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

- Autograph opportunities
- A baseball ride arcade
- Kids activity area
- Fun interactive center
- Instructional clinics
- Special Guest seminars
- A Tiger museum display
- National Anthem auditions
- 25% off select Tiger merchandise
- Opportunity to purchase season and group tickets

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
10 AM - 4 PM, COBO ARENA AND HALL

TICKETS JUST \$5
AVAILABLE AT THE JOE LOUIS ARENA BOX OFFICE,
ANY TICKETMASTER OUTLET,
OR CALL 248-25-TIGER

SCHEDULED TO APPEAR:
Brian Hunter, Bobby Higginson, Tony Clark, Justin Thompson, Buddy Bell, Todd Jones, Damian Easley, and more

Plus, special appearances by members of the '88 World Series team as they celebrate their 10th anniversary!

All 1998 Tigers Tickets On Sale Now, Call 248-25-TIGER

SPONSORED BY

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS