

Fine bowlers run in family



AL HARRISON

Last Friday night there were three generations of Woods bowling right next to me, on both sides. My 10-year-old son, Mike, the long-time secretary of the Greenfield M x o d League, was bowling with her grandson, Mike. Mike was filling in for an absent bowler. To my right, were Mildred's son, Bill, and his wife, Sandy.

Things got interesting as the night went on. The younger Weeds, Mike, had the first 10 strikes, using his unusual no-thumb delivery. His attempt for the 11th one went astray and he settled for a 289 game which followed a nice 249 in game one.

His dad, Bill, bowling on my right, was also lighting them up, firing a 268 in the opening game, followed by his 225 and 247 for a 740 series, just shy of the 746 by his son, Mike.

Sandy Weeds also got into the act with a 194 game and 647 series, not bad considering that she has been fighting leukemia for several years now and seems to have fully recovered.

Now we add Mildred to the equation, for one of her games was 189, a good 50 pins over her average. The league president is Katie Szyono, and she was bowling against Mildred and Mike and came up with a third game score of 277. The lanes were hot and all of the Weeds were better.

Have you heard about new gun law just passed in the Michigan State Legislature and signed by the governor? It will make it easier for people to obtain concealed weapons permits. Maybe that's not a bad idea, after all. If you are bowling and the 1 pin stays up you could quickly whip out that .38 special and fire a quick shot at the pin before the rack comes down. There is no ABC rule that specifically forbids this. The bowling bags will be re-designed to have a holster compartment. There are numerous other good uses for handguns, like if you need to quickly drill a hole in something and can't find a drill, or you cannot locate the off button on the teenager's stereo.

Richard Wiacek of Garden City has moved into third place in the Hamtramck Singles Classic, which is not in Hamtramck but Hazel Park. This score is the best in the history of the tournament, which carries a \$25,000 first prize. Joe Kasseb, also of Garden City, maintains his position in first with 1,038. Michael Thiel of Royal Oak is second at 1,020, and Wiacek has 1,011 in the third spot. Rob Gaynor of

Farmington Hills holds on to the top rung in the Eight Game Singles. For more information on this event which continues on through July, call (248) 548-0070.

The Greater Detroit Bowling Association has called for its annual meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday Jan. 13, at the Royal Oak Senior Community Center, 3500 Marais Avenue north of 13 Mile Road. Every league which operates under the sanction of ODBA should have a delegate in attendance. All questions will be answered, and any league that does not send a delegate has no way to input its own needs, complaints or ideas.

For the youth bowlers in the Wayne-Westland area, the 18th Annual Mac Memorial Youth Scholarship Tournament begins 1 p.m. today, Jan. 7, with check-in one hour before game time at noon. So hurry on down to Westland for the tournament. Open to all high school and college students who are still eligible. The fee is \$12.

The Wayne-Westland Metro Bowling Association and Tri-City Women's Bowling Association are sponsoring the 29th Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament with a little more lead time as it runs 10 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10 and 1 p.m. Feb. 4 and 11. Reservations must be made by Feb. 2. Team fee is \$36 with 100 percent of prize fees returned. Open to all in Town-n-Country Lanes on Wayne Road in Westland. For more details or entry forms, call: (734) 722-5000.

Harry Ackerman of Redford passed away last week, and the bowling community is in mourning. Harry never lost his enthusiasm for the game even though the years took their toll on him. He was bowling at the age of 82 in the Wednesday Senior Men's Classic and the Friday Morning Singles at Mayflower Lanes in Redford when he was first sidelined by cancer. A few weeks ago, Harry was a real student of the game. He read everything he could get his hands on, and he could tell you all about things like track flare, axle rotation, radius of gyration, core torque and more whether you wanted to hear about it or not. Harry understood all of this and seriously applied this knowledge to his game. Harry was a good bowler but not a braggart. He was a team player and a member of several winning teams. His conduct was exemplary. He showed a lot of class and never criticized or berated another player. This score is in the hands, above all else, Harry Ackerman was a gentleman. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Virginia and his two daughters, Anne Ackerman and Catherine Duncan.

At Harrison is a resident of Garden City. He can be reached at (734) 428-1609.

Ice fishing season hits full stride in area



BILL PARKER

A brisk north-east wind lashed out at the side of my face as I tended to the duty at hand. Though my fingers and face were both frozen, I barely noticed the cold as I instinctively dialed in on the subtle, yet distinctive, tap on the end of my line.

I prefer to fish for panfish with my line running over my finger tips rather than through a spring bobber, although I admit spring bobbies do have their merit. It's just that old habits are hard to break, and I enjoy "feeling" the bite as opposed to "seeing" it with a spring bobber.

When that first slight nudge from down below was transferred from the end of my line to my fingertips, a surge of adrenaline shot through my veins like a thoroughbred leaving the gate.

There's something special about the first bite of the ice fishing season. It warms the soul

and kindles the fishing spirit. After a long layoff from fishing for the fall hunting season, the first bite of the ice fishing season is welcomed like a long-lost friend.

In my excitement, I tried to bully my quarry to the surface and the battle ended quickly as my two-pound test monofilament snapped like a brittle twig.

"Rookie!" I thought to myself. "Never caught a fish before?" But all was not lost. A short distance away, my friend Steve Sims emerged from the warmth of a portable shanty and made a quick, but cautious, dash across the snow-covered ice toward the orange flag waving in the distance. He gazed down into the hole for a moment to see of the fish was still taking line, then slowly raised his tip-up out of the water and took a firm grip of his 15-pound braided dacron line. After a quick tug and a short fight a beautiful 28-inch Northern pike was flopping in the snow.

While tying a tear drop to my line, I heard some commotion to my right and turned to see another friend, Tim King, reeling in a "slab" bluegill.

Ice fishing season is in full gear in southeastern Michigan. Most area lakes are covered with a solid layer of ice. But still use caution when venturing out. Check with a local bait shop for updated ice conditions, especially if the warm weather we've had over the last couple days lingers.

It's been a long time since we've experienced a winter like we've had so far and there's no reason to stay cooped up in the house whining about it. The fish are biting. Get out there and enjoy the season.

Dove bill fails

In case you haven't heard, House Bill 6147, which would have changed the status of a mourning dove from a song bird to a game bird, which it really is, was defeated in the state Senate.

The bill, which would have opened the door for a dove hunting season in Michigan like there is in 39 other states, had already passed the House. It fell one vote short of passage when the Senate voted 19-16 in favor of the bill. It needed 20 votes to pass. Representative Susan Tabor (R-Lansing), who sponsored the

bill, vowed to bring the issue back to the legislature.

Turkey permits

It doesn't seem like time to start thinking about this year's hunting seasons, but if you want a crack at one of the 75,000 licenses the DNR is issuing for the spring turkey season the time is now. The application period runs through Feb. 1. Permits are available at the 1,700 authorized license dealers statewide, at most DNR offices including the district headquarters in Livonia and via the internet at www.michigan.dnr.com.

"This year, for the first time in modern history, at least a portion of every county in the Lower Peninsula has an area open to spring wild turkey hunting. Five counties in the Upper Peninsula also are open to spring hunting during the 2001 season," said Al Stewart, DNR upland game bird specialist.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for The Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009)

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6177 Chicago Road, in Warren. The public is welcome. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wilczek at (810) 757-7355 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparulo at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Call (248) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 16218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0556 for information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth

Tuesday of every month at the Gender Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658.

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 at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7755; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Ken-

ington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

SHOWHOSE SHUFFLE
This program, designed for children ages 10 and older, allows participants to try snowshoeing at the Nature Center of Stony Creek Metropark near the Rochester/Utica area. Pre-registration is required for the event, which is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13 at noon. For more information or to register, contact the Nature Center at (810) 781-4621.

OAKLAND PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

ICE FISHING CONTESTS
An upcoming ice fishing contest is scheduled for Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston. "Cabin Fever Cure" will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8 a.m.-noon. In addition to an ice fishing contest, cross country skiing is planned for 1-4 p.m. Thirty minute ski lessons will also be given. Cost is \$3 per person with skis or \$8 per person with a ski rental. To register, call (248) 858-4647. Independence Oaks County Park is located off Sashabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75.

"Ice Fishing for Scouts" will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Nature Center of Kensington Metropark. This is a chance for scouts to learn about ice fishing. Bring ice fishing poles and dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required. Call (248) 685-0603 or 1-800-477-3178 for registration information.



Attention Red Wings Fans!

FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL GAMES ON SALE TUESDAY, JAN. 9 • 10 AM

GAME DATES:

- Tuesday, Feb. 6 vs. Ottawa @ 7:30 PM
- Thursday, Feb. 8 vs. Toronto @ 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, Feb. 14 vs. Carolina @ 7:30 PM
- Friday, Feb. 16 vs. Columbus @ 7:30 PM
- Friday, Feb. 23 vs. St. Louis @ 8:00 PM
- Sunday, Feb. 25 vs. Phoenix @ 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, Mar. 13 vs. Vancouver @ 7:30 PM
- Thursday, Mar. 15 vs. Calgary @ 7:30 PM
- Thursday, Mar. 22 vs. Minnesota @ 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, Mar. 28 vs. St. Louis @ 7:30 PM
- Sunday, Apr. 1 vs. Washington @ 7:00 PM
- Thursday, Apr. 5 vs. Atlanta @ 7:30 PM
- Saturday, Apr. 7 vs. Colorado @ 3:00 PM

Tickets are available at the Joe Louis Arena box office and all **Red Wings** locations or **CHARGE BY PHONE** at 248-645-6666

BUY TICKETS ON-LINE AT www.detroitredwings.com

Get on the right track with the

THE Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

Happy Trails! We'll be there!

Cross-country Ski School

Addison Oaks County Park - c/o Oakland County Parks
1480 W. Romeo Road, Leonard • 248-493-2432
Observer & Eccentric Ski School - January 6 and February 4 & 10, 10 a.m.-noon & 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ski a special event!
Family & Friends Ski Nights - January 13, 20 and February 3 • 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Independence Oaks County Park - c/o Oakland County Parks
9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston • 248-625-0877
Observer & Eccentric Ski School - January 7 and February 3 & 11, 10 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Cabin Fever Cure - January 27 • 8 a.m.-noon, Ice Fishing • 1-4 p.m., Ski

Rochester Avon Recreation Authority -
104 East Second Street, Rochester • 248-454-8308

at Waterford Oaks County Park, Michigan's first refrigerated toboggan run!

Call 248-858-0906 for discount coupons, park maps and more, or visit the Oakland County Parks on-line at www.co.oakland.mi.us

OPEN

Feeds