A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Fishing Report:
When cold weather and high winds subside, many anglers have been making nice catches of perch off the docks and boats in the bay.

Please Don't Litter.

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TIME DATED MATERIAL
ICE OUT PARTY #37 IS NOW HISTORY

Over 600 men, women and kids came to the Erie Shrine Club in Erie on April 8th to join in the fun at our 37th Ice Out Party. By the time the “Fin and Fur” drawing, which is traditionally held at the end of the party, was done, a lot of fun and games became history.

We served over 1400 hot dogs, 900 bags of potato chips, 6 kgs of beer, thousands of baked beans, gallons of soda, gallons of greek sauce, and pounds of macaroni salad and sauerkraut. The 600 guests left with thousands of baked beans, gallons of greek sauce, and pounds of macaroni salad and sauerkraut. The 600 guests left with thousands of baked beans, gallons of greek sauce, and pounds of macaroni salad and sauerkraut.

Every kid got a fishing pole. Every lady got a bottle of wine, and more. Lettie Skrypzak and Don Benczkowski passed out Utz chips. Sue and Marshall Chase sold thousands of pull tab tickets. Bob Zawadzki and his team also raffled off some nice items with a Chinese auction and tip board raffles. Jack Bock and his 17 helpers cooked the Shriners’ annual Ice Out Party. Party. By the time the “Fin and Fur”

Jack Klapthor, Sharon Lipinski, Casey Grabinski, Mike Felege, and Ray Halt passed out prizes to the winners, all while Will Richardson brought more raffle tickets to the stage. Paul Holtz auctioned off prints and bottles of wine. In all, over 60 S.O.N.S. volunteers worked to make the event a success, leaving our great treasurer Terry Pfeffer to count the proceeds and determine if the party was also a financial success. We hope everyone had fun.

THE FOLLOWING DONATED DOOR PRIZES TO THE ICE OUT PARTY – THEY SUPPORT US SO PLEASE SUPPORT THEM

| A Duchini Ace Hardware | Cove Restaurant | Game Stop | O’Reilly Auto Parts | Silk Screen Unlimited |
| A Friend | Cutto Knives by Case | Gerlach’s | Out Back Steakhouse | Skiperpeno’s Pizza |
| A Log Up | Dave Hallman Chevy | Giant Eagle | PA Outdoor News | Smith Provision Co. |
| A Lumbar Florists | Dave Hallman Hyundai | Golden Corral | Pano’s Restaurant | Stan’s Garden Center |
| Alma Jean Skrypzak | Don “Doc” Daugherty | H&K Donuts | Patti Leone | Syd’s Restaurant |
| Anchor Marine | Eat & Park Restaurant | Hoss’s Restaurant | Patti’s Pizza | Tires For Less |
| Art’s Bakery | Edible Arrangements | Jack Paun | Paul Holtz | TRES |
| Auto Zone | Edinboro Outdoors | Jimmy John Subs | Pet Supplies Plus | Tresaess Hair Salon |
| Bay Rat Lures | El Canelo | Joe Roof | Pete’s Pizza | Trost Steinhurst Florist |
| Bianchi Honda | Empire Pewter | Kraus Department Store | Pittsburgh Inn | U Haul North East |
| Bill Gross | Ericson Memorial Studio | Lories Wild Ridge | Potratoz Forest | Uncommon USA |
| Bistro | Erie Batteries & Alternators | Restaurant | PPG Paints | Urbanak Brothers |
| Bonnie Dias | Erie Beer Co. | Luminary Distilling | Presque Isle Gun Shop | UTZ Snack Foods |
| Cab Bar and Grill | Erie County Hist. Society | Marco Pizza | Primanti Bros | Vaters’s Restaurant |
| Care Care II | Erie Sport Stores | Maris’a Pizza | Rod Lobster | Valu Home Center |
| Champion Ford | Famer’s Hardware | Mazza Winery | Ring Slide Restaurant | Walmart |
| Chiper’s Tavern | Field & Stream | Mc Gay’s Tavern | S.M.C. Jewelry | West End Hardware |
| CICI Pizza | Floor Expressions | Nickel Plate Mills | Seasonal Selections | Wild Birds Unlimited |
| Count Yard Winery | Foxy’s End Campground | NY Lunch (Peninsula Dr) | Serenah’s Restaurant | |
FIN AND FUR RAFFLE WINNER CHOOSES ATV

The culmination of our “Ice Out Party” is always the drawing of the winning tickets of our “Fin and Fur” raffle. The raffle was organized many years ago by Director and founding member, Bob Zawadzki, who has organized the raffle every year since. The raffle is our biggest fund raiser. We have had great success with it over the years thanks to the hard work of our volunteers selling tickets at shows and gun raffles that begin in the summer and run until our Ice Out Party, Rich Smith, Chuck Miller and Bill Henderson led the way this year at the shows and raffles with the help of other volunteers.

Dot Molder was the lucky grand prize winner of this year’s Fin and Fur raffle. She chose to take the ATV as her prize. She was present at the Ice Out Party and we took the above picture as she took a seat on her new Polaris 450 ATV. Bob Zawadzki and Sharon Alex from Alex Motorsports stand by.

Twelve more prizes were drawn and the winners as well as the prize donors are listed below.

2nd Prize: 12 gauge Benelli Pump Shotgun sponsored by Church and Mordock was won by Bill Stewart of Erie Ticket # 13216.
3rd Prize: G.P.S., sponsored by Janitors Supply Co. (814) 459-4503 was won by Drew Kramer of Erie Ticket # 21337.
4th Prize: Minnow Pack Pass ($150 value) on The Edward John won by John Krampf of Cumberland, MD Ticket # 10083.
5th Prize: One year membership to Lake Shore Towning won by Tom Turner of Erie Ticket # 08357.
6th Prize: $250 Gift Certificate to Poor Richards Bait and Tackle won by Rob Barker of Erie Ticket # 01299.
7th Prize: Marlin 22 mag. rifle, Sponsored by Winschel Bros. Landscaping won by Byron Schwartz of Cambridge, PA Ticket # 21210.
8th Prize: 4 hour lake trout spring charter on the “Waterbok”, Capt. Steve Sprzyazak won by Darla Kerr of Edinburg, PA Ticket # 21913.
9th Prize: 10 trips on the (Perch Pirate) won by Matt Szustak of Erie Ticket # 14633.
10th Prize: $250 Gift Certificate sponsored by FishUSA.com a won by Joe Walko Ticket # 19185.
11th Prize: $250 Gift Certificate to “Poor Richard’s Bait & Tackle”, sponsored by Hertel & Brown Physical and Aquatic Therapy won by Bob Bardee of Erie, PA Ticket # 21657.

13th Prize: $250 Gift Certificate to Link’s Taxidermy sponsored by Alex Roofing won by John Costlow of Erie Ticket # 20071.

If you are interested in a membership of the S.O.N.S., please contact the office at 814-450-0190.

S.O.N.S. MEMBER HONORED AT WINTER COMPETITION

S.O.N.S. member, John Larase recently participated in National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic along with 400 other veterans at Snowmass, Village Colorado from April 1st thru 6th. John was recognized for his achievement in a skiing event.

WANTED: Old photographs of Erie’s Waterfront - Ships, Boats, Buildings, Fishing and Fishermen, Railroads, etc... Call Jerry at 814-452-6291. I would like to borrow and scan them for my slide presentations.

With the opening March 29 of the 60th shipping season on the St. Lawrence Seaway, oceangoing vessels began transiting the Great Lakes, bringing cargo — and the risk of even more ballast-water invasive species. Efforts to mitigate that invasive-species risk are being fought by the shipping industry. Court-ordered regulations require oceangoing ships to treat their ballast water before discharging it. However, according to the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the shipping industry is fighting the regulations, lobbying Congress and pushing for release from the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act—a broad series of measures to gut shipping regulations.

The bill would eliminate Clean Water Authority over ship discharges including ballast water — and remove the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s authority to decide standards to protect waterways, including the Great Lakes. The measure also would exempt ships operating solely on the Great Lakes and pre-empt states’ rights to protect their waters.

S.O.N.S. REGIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS CONCLUDE

For over thirty years now, the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie has worked hard with others including the L.E.A.F. (Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier), PA Sea Grant, Coastal Zone Management and early on with kids from Strong Vincent High School to clean up, restore, improve habitat and reduce sedimentation and pollutants entering Presque Isle Bay. All of the efforts over the years by us and our partners have changed a previously polluted stream into a viable way to support trout providing a fishing opportunity for inner city residents.

This year on April 7th thirty one SONS volunteers were joined by Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scout leaders and parents from Troop and Pack #13 headquartered at Elmwood Presbyterian Church in Erie along with members of the Gannon University fishing club and some park neighbors to clean up Cascade Creek and Frontier Park. The day was cold and clear and for three hours the volunteers gathered garbage bags litter. After the work was done everyone was provided a lunch of hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate and chips. The stream was stocked with brown trout on April 13th. Photos taken during the clean-up are shown below including the scouts from Troop and Pack #13. Thanks to our friend John Baker for photos that he took that day.

MEMBERSHIP GAUGE

We are still below our 3000 member goal. Join a friend today!

FOR SALE:


Ice Hut: Amish built, one man, on skis ‘3’X’4’10” opened call Tom at 814-864-1886 after 3 PM

Ice Auger: 8” Eskimo Stingray used once, like new in box asking $225. Call Andy at 440-944-4557

Outboard Motor: 6 hp Johnson asking $475 Call Ron at 814-455-8343 or cell 814-431-5711

WANTED:

Boat: 16 foot inboard or outboard. Call 724-504-7561

SHIPPING INDUSTRY FIGHTS BALLAST REGULATIONS

By Lisa Neff, staff writer Apr 8, 2018 Great Lakes Daily News

Members of the Great Lakes congressional delegation prevented inclusion of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act in the federal omnibus spending bill passed in March. However, industry lobbyists continue to push for passage.

Cargo vessels have introduced a number of aquatic invasive species — such as zebra mussels and round gobies — that have cost the region billions of dollars since the late 1980s, according to the alliance. Two non-native zooplankton — Thermocyclus crassus and Brachionus leidyi — were found in Lake Erie in recent years. And, in February, researchers announced a bloody red shrimp was found in the Duluth-Superior harbor on Lake Superior.