General Membership Meeting
Monday, December 17
7:30 P.M.
The Polish Falcons Club
431 E. 3rd Street, Erie, PA

Let's have a Christmas Party!

Presque Isle Marina.
Some Burbot are being caught off of the piers in the channel, bay and Presque Isle Marina. Some Burbot are being caught off of the channel piers.

Report:

TiMe DATeD MATeRiAL

Tohatsu Outboard
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 459-0666

Tell No Tales Charters
34 STATE ST - ERIE - PA - 16507
(814) 874-0698

WOLVERINE PARK MARINA & SHIP'S STORE
\* THORNTON DOCKS \* BOATING SUPPLIES \* NAUTICAL CHARTS \* BOOZE AND GROG ITEMS
34 STATE ST - ERIE - PA - 16507
(814) 874-0698

JOSEPH P. DANOWSKY PLASTERING
Ceilings - Drywall - Stucco - New Construction
SERVING ERIE SINCE 1957
PO Box 3808 • Erie, PA 16508
Phone 453-3617

Little Fells Hardware & Building Supplies
2112 Liberty Street
Erie, PA 16502
(814) 881-4569

Tell No Tales Charters

Presque Isle Passage Campground
Docked in the East Slip, foot of State St

WOLVERINE PARK MARINA
34 State St - Erie, PA 16507

Put your ad in Tell No Tales Charters. Phone 453-3617

Tell No Tales Charters

Your ad could be here! Contact S.O.N.S. for details.

S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, Inc.
A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

The Bucket” published monthly by S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie

Volume 15 • Issue 12
December 2018

A Replenishing Species

6831 West Lake Road
Fairview, PA 16415
(814) 474-5623

Never a Rent Increase on Your Rented Unit
Pre-Pay For 3 Months, No North Free (Valid Only for Initial Sign-Up)
838-2887

S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie
501c3 non-profit organization

Presque Isle Marina.
Some Burbot are being caught off of the piers in the channel, bay and Presque Isle Marina. Some Burbot are being caught off of the channel piers.
THE FRIENDS OF FISH FOUNDATION CONTINUES WITH THEIR SUPPORT

For 17 years in a row the Friends of Fish Foundation, a Philadelphia based philanthropic organization, has again made a significant contribution to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie. Total contributions from this generous group over the last 17 years have exceeded $120,000. It is fortuitous that this generous grant comes at a time when the development of a fishing platform on the Holland St. Dock has received the go ahead from the PA Fish and Boat Commission by providing a grant to the Erie Western Port Authority from the Lake Erie Stamp funds for its construction. This year’s grant can be applied to the Holland St. Pier project. We have already used one of their grants to pay for the preliminary engineering.

We received a pleasant surprise on Monday, December 3 when the President of the Friends of Fish Foundation, Bruce Garland, and his wife. Lucile, came to the Polish Falcons club while we were conducting a SONS board of directors meeting. He and his wife were in town to do some steelheading fishing and to donate some fishing equipment to the club. He wanted to meet our board. We had a great visit and it was good to express our gratitude to the Friends of Fish Foundation in person.

2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IN FULL SWING

You should have received your 2019 member renewal packet by now. Included with the packet are a membership renewal form and six raffle tickets for a drawing to be held at our Jan 28, 2019 meeting when ten $100.00 prizes will be awarded. The raffle helps to defray the cost of our printing and mailing. Our goal again is to maintain our membership level at 3000+ members. We fell short last year only reaching 2700 members for the first time in five years. If you look on the back of the packet cover letter you will find extra membership forms that you can use to sign up a friend or family member. You can mail your membership forms and your payment in the included envelope or bring them to our December and January meetings. If you have not received your membership packet call 814-453-2270.

AN ELECTION OF S.O.N.S. DIRECTORS TO BE HELD AT DECEMBER MEETING

Nominations were taken at our November 19th General Membership Meeting for S.O.N.S. officers and four directors positions.

President Jerry Skrypzak, VP Ed Kissell, Secretary Don Tombaugh and Treasurer Terry Pfeffer were nominated to serve another term for 2019. There were no other nominations for the officers’ positions so these individuals will continue to serve our club in their present offices respectively. There were however, five nominations for the office of director. Those who were nominated were incumbents Bob Zawadzki, Ron Lubak, Mike Felege, Rich Smith. Also nominated was Bill Stewart making a fifth nominee. There are four directors positions open at this time so therefore a run-off election will be held at our December 17th meeting.

Our officers serve one year terms and the directors serve for three years.

LAKE CHAUTAUQUA HAS A WALLEYE RESURGENCE

Based on a recent survey, Region 9 NYDEP fisheries staff have determined that the walleye population in Chautauqua Lake is rivaling levels last seen in the 1990’s when catching a limit was considered easy. The walleye population continues to rise based on excellent spawning success in 2014 and 2015. What’s even more exciting is that another exceptional year class of walleye was produced this past year that should maintain quality walleye fishing over the next decade. Not only are the fish plentiful, but they are also big. Fish over 25” are not uncommon, and the average size of walleye in Chautauqua is now over 18”. Contact the DEC Region 9 office for more information.

MEMORIALS ARE STILL BEING MADE IN THE NAMES OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

Shown above are members of Norrie Dunsmore’s and her family presenting a check to the SONS Pres. Jerry Skrypzak in the name of long time member, Steve Zielonka. We published a list of other memorials in our October Bucket that we have received including those in the names of Don Bartos, Linda Ferrick, John Fry, Frank Gerlach, Mike Jankiewicz, Dick Lear, Jim McMurray, Larry Nickles, Novotny, John Rzodkiewicz, Nelson Schaffner and Francis Szczuszudzowski. Since then we have received more donations in the name of Ken Schnarrs, John Balkovich as well as Steve Zielonka.

2018 MEMBERSHIP PIN

If you would like to have a 2018 S.O.N.S. member pin, you can pick one up at one of the upcoming events or our meetings. If you would like one mailed to you, send $3.00 to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie PO Box 3605 Erie, PA to cover mailing costs.

GUN RAFFLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer to sell raffle tickets and SONS memberships at gun raffles please contact Director Rich Brine at our December 17th meeting or call Rich at 814-833-5007.

UPCOMING GUN RAFFLES FOR 2019

Consider attending the above gun raffles not only for something to do this winter but to support those organizations that support us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. January 26th 10-2 Presque Isle Snow Days Ice Fishing event at Waterworks pond. Volunteers needed.

Sat April 6th 9:30 AM Frontier Park Cascade Creek Clean Up Volunteers needed meet at LEAF building on 68St Side of Frontier Park

Sun. April 7th 1-5 Erie Shrine Club SONS Ice Out Party

Sat April 13th 8-12 Waterworks Pond First Day of Trout. Volunteers need to help kids fish.

OURS GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLIER ON DECEMBER 17th SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH CHRISTMAS EVE

2018 MEMBERSHIP DRIVEhawk's Island

The Safety's Stake

RECOMMENDED ICE THICKNESS

1-inch - STAY OUT

4” Generally safe for Ice Fishing - Foot Travel

5 inches - Snowmobile

8 to 12 inches - Car or Small Pickup

12 to 15 inches - Medium Truck

Lake Chautauqua has a Walleye Resurgence

Our goal again is to maintain our membership level at 3000+ members. We fell short last year only reaching 2700 members for the first time in five years.

Recommended Ice Thickness

Lake Chautauqua has a Walleye Resurgence

L to R seated: Jack Klapthor, Terry Pfeffer, Mrs. Garland, Friends of Fish Foundation Pres. Bruce Garland, and Jerry Skrypzak.


FOUND:

Floating in Misery Bay, a remote control for an electric trolling motor.
BROWN TROUT MOVED INTO HATCHERY

Our hatchery committee composed of Chairman Bob Zawadzki, members Joe Springer, Don Tombaugh, Jack Bock and Rich Smith along with other SONS volunteers have been working feverishly for the last several months reorganizing, upgrading and refurbishing the SONS fish hatchery located at the foot of Chestnut St. in Erie. As reported in a prior issue of the Bucket which documented improvements to our electrical system and physical plant that were made possible by a grant from the Friends of Fish Foundation. Our crew spent a lot of time freshening up the paint, building net covers for our holding tanks to prevent fish from jumping out, installing new aerators, adding a newer refrigerator for the convenience of the crew and simply updating the 33 year old facility.

On Thursday November 15th a truck and driver from PFBC’s Corry Hatchery brought 575 Brown trout to the SONS hatchery at the foot of Chestnut St. Most of the fish averaged 6 inches long. They were brought to us for the fifth consecutive year for rearing in our facility. Hopefully by December we will be able to grow in our hatchery they will become imprinted with Presque Isle Bay waters and will return to the Bay to spawn. Hope they like their new temporary home.

We will keep the fish until early April when they will be released into the Bay to make room for our walleye and perch hatching. The brown trout should grow several inches more by April.

SONS MERCHANDISE AND MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you need a nice Christmas Gift we have nine different styles of hats ($10), T shirts (3 styles) ($10), fishing vests ($8), license plates ($5). 1/4 zip long sleeve shirts $25-30 depending on size, and plastic insulated mugs ($6). We also have some sweatshirts ($20) in limited sizes. SONS director John Krupinski will be bringing our inventory to our meetings where you can pick them up or call 814-453-2270 to order.

SONS memberships are a great gift for friends and family members too!

WANTED:

Unwanted bicycles donations to Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network to be repaired and refurbished by volunteers to distribute to those who can’t afford them. Call Margarita at 814-454-7614 ext 301 to donate.

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.

ANOTHER WATERFRONT BUSINESS CLOSES ITS DOORS

Jim Manges, now 83 years old, has been serving boaters and fishermen for 67 years, first with Great Lakes Marine Ltd, then McAllister Marine, and as proprietor of Anchor Marine since 1996. On November 30th 2018 all of this came to an end with the closing of the Anchor Marine Business. The Erie Western PA Port Authority has decided to tear the McAllister building down after he leaves. Jim Manges has been a great supporter of the SONS over the years and we are sad to see him close, but we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Why should we care? Retirement is inevitable for all of us. The problem is that the closing of Anchor Marine leaves us with only two established marine service facilities located on the waterfront. This is a severe blow to boaters and fishermen because even though we have other marine businesses in Erie, they are located off the waterfront, leaving those boaters without trailers and boaters in transit on the Lake with only two busy boat yards for service.

There is no replacement for this business at this time; however the EWPPA has been exploring the possibility of establishing a marine service facility and a boat storage area in the vicinity of Lamega Marine away from the Public Dock area. Funding, land acquisition and permitting will keep this from happening for several years.

We are also losing the last of the marine supply businesses on the waterfront where not too long ago there were at least five. There are thousands of boaters and fishermen with boats that use our waters and require support and service.

If you are not a boater why should you care? It’s simple economics. There that will be left is the remnants of the Union Fish Co, which is now Bayshore Marine Services.

No one seems to care that our heritage is being buried in the rubble of so-called progress. The Erie Western PA Port Authority, which owns the property, has decided that it is better economics to tear the building down with the hope that a developer will use the opportunity to develop something else on the site. Carpet bagger consultants have been engaged to decide the fate of our city through studies and commissions. Unfortunately, none of them have the true feel of what we are because of what we were. They instead are coming up with a laundry list of recommendations mostly to justify their high fees that they are charging for the service. What they don’t realize is that people love our waterfront. They like to be near the water. The water is the attraction, anything else is merely an opportunity for businesses to cash in on our great resource. The best fit is to cater to those who love to visit, relax, photograph, fish, walk, jog, and simply enjoy which has been ours forever. It will never be the quaint fishing village of the past... How sad!

FOR SALE:

Boat: 1989 21foot Bayliner Trophy with Hard top, 4 cylinder OMC Out Drive, Auto Pilot, Trim Tabs, Lowrance Depth Finder, GPS, Marine Radio, Rocket Launcher Rod Holderrs, Electric Big Jon Downriggers, Built In Cooler, Sink, Fighting Chair, Built in Ice Chest, Porta Poti , and much more. Asking $6000, call Steve at 814-438-3280. Boat is in storage but still can be shown.

COTTAGE FOR SALE

on Crooked Creek in North Springfield, PA. Call David at 814-882-2927.