

Program:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

Check out our web site: [www.great-lakes.org/vpsc](http://www.great-lakes.org/vpsc).

You are just a click away from pictures of Salmon and Walleye trips, previous news letters and more about our Villa Park Sportsmen's Club. You may also send information to be posted on the web site to [rjames@yahoo.com](mailto:rjames@yahoo.com).

BYOB Fishing:

Where's your favorite fishing hole? Call and we'll set up a meet; Joe Nutt (630)961-1513 or Gary Buehre (630)279-0696 or Adolph Janke (630)843-7193.

Future Programs and Scheduled Events:

December 4 – This will be our Christmas Party. Bring a dish to share. The Club will supply ham, sodas, and coffee.

Fishing in Southern Wisconsin, these guys know how to do it.



From the 'Midwest Outdoors' web site. <http://midwestoutdoors.com/magazine>  
Breaking The Rules On River Fishing

## By Mike Yurk

There is never anything “normal” when you fish the Mississippi River. What the river was like last year at the same time may not be anything like it is the next year. Heck, at times things on the river can change from day to day.

It was a bright, sunny early fall day when Mike Hallis of Woodbury, Minn. and I were motoring up the river to the fish the dam near Red Wing, Minn. It was getting to be that time of year for the fish to start hitting, and Mike and I were going to check it out.

The river had low water and the current was weaker than what we saw last fall or for several seasons before, for that matter. As we got to the dam I worked our way through the other boats towards the rocky shore.

I kept an eye on the depth finder while Mike stood in the front of the boat with the anchor. As the depth finder said 15 feet and I saw fish on the screen, I yelled to Mike to drop the anchor.

The anchor caught on the rocks below, and with little current we did not need to put out much rope to hold the boat. The current slowly swung the back of the boat from 13 to 16 feet of water. We were only about two boat lengths from the bank.

We slipped minnows on the rigs we were fishing and dropped them overboard. We were fishing what I refer to as a double rig. From a three-way swivel I use two leaders. The longest leader has a hook with three yellow beads and the shorter leader has a half-ounce chartreuse jig attached to it.

The jig hit bottom and I lifted it about eight inches to a foot off the bottom and then let it drop back again. Within minutes I felt a bump and set the hook. I felt a fish pulling back and my rod tip was bouncing. The fish was a small sauger, and after twisting out the hook I dropped the fish back in the water.

From the very beginning Mike and I were getting strikes. We both caught a large crappie. I have not seen many crappie on the river but it wasn't a surprise we caught them. You can catch almost any fish on the Mississippi River.

Mike raised his spinning rod sharply and I saw it was bent in half. A fish raced off and Mike turned it but the fish wasn't coming in easily. It made several short runs before Mike had the fish coming toward the boat.

Finally we saw the fish and it was a large white bass. Once we got it in the boat we guessed that it probably weighed about three pounds.

For the rest of the afternoon Mike and I continued to catch fish. We caught a few more white bass and a bunch of sauger with a few walleye mixed in. We caught over 50 fish, and by the end of the day had gone through two scoops of minnows.

It was a great day of fishing...because we were breaking the rules. On the Mississippi River the rule of thumb is if the water is low to normal, then fish deeper water. If the water is high, fish shallow water. I have always considered the breaking point between shallow and deep water to be 20 feet.

As I looked around while we were fishing, our boat was the only one in shallow water and close to the bank. All the other boats were in deeper water, farther out in the channel, and they didn't seem to be catching many fish.

If we had followed the conventional rule of thumb, we would have fished deeper water. But we didn't. Instead we fished shallow water and caught a bunch of fish, so breaking the rules helped us catch more fish. Not only did that help on the day Mike and I were fishing but I found that pattern worked for most of last fall. The water levels stayed low and I continued to catch fish

in shallow water.

One of the things that also helped when we were breaking the rules is that we were fishing a hole close to the bank. I believe an eddy formed there, and with the current not being as strong on the river at that time, baitfish gravitated to the eddy. Once you have baitfish present you will usually find game there as well. That also is a rule of thumb.

There are lots of rules, patterns and reasons why fish will be hitting or not in certain waters and with various baits. That is the nature of fishing and why we sometimes fish certain places at certain times of the year with certain baits. Many times these rules and patterns work. They have been discovered over the years by millions of fishermen. The fish bite the best when the wind is out of the west; fish bite just before a rain; fish shallow when the water is deep, etc.

But with all these rules, they don't work all the time. If they did, fishing would get to be too easy and it wouldn't be fun. There would be no challenge.

So it is good to break the rules every now and then and go against the conventional thought. That is probably good advice for all fishing. There is nothing in fishing that will work all the time, so be willing to experiment, and there will be days when breaking the rules will help.

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We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the North Terrace Pond Clubhouse on Westmont and Terrace (approximately 6 blocks south of North Avenue and 3 blocks west of Addison) in Villa Park. Annual dues are \$30. Visitors or prospective new members are welcome - a \$3 fee is requested. If you are interested in attending or becoming a member please contact: Marty Kapolczynski at (630) 932-1923.