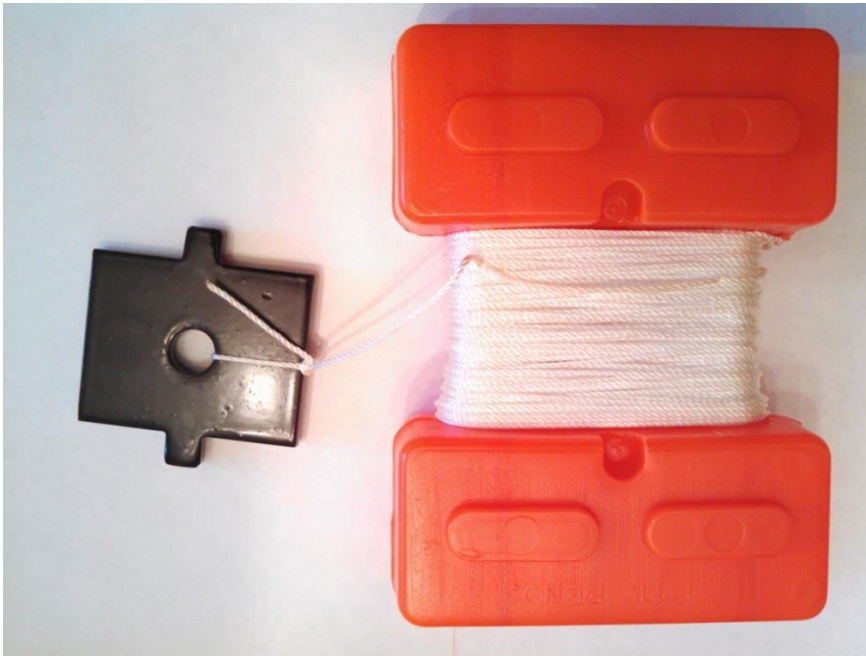


SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP OCTOBER 20, 2005

“MARKERS”



Structure marker with weight

Markers are one of the most **important and useful** tools in a Spoonpluggers arsenal. **How we use them to learn more about the structure** in a lake was the **program subject**. Don Stephens brought a **Dixon video** showing **on-the-water procedures used in mapping a bar**. It explained that we must **get a map of a structure first** before we can accurately **determine where the fish come up on it** (interpretation). We need to ask and find answers to several questions before we can draw a map. **Does it lead all the way to deep water? Where does it break? What is the final break (dropoff)? What is its' form? By following breaklines and throwing markers on major features** of a structure, we can **best picture its form and how it relates to the deepest water in the area (home of the fish)**. This information is obtained **by taking a few minutes to look over a structure with a depth sounder and draw a simple map** giving answers to these questions. It does **not** have to be **exact, detailed, or artistic** (it is only for your own use). Finding the **longest, narrowest, sharpest, deepest break to the deepest water in the area is the key to the contact point** of the structure. Your map will usually show that. With **this information** we can **concentrate our fishing** on areas of the structure that would be the **most productive** when the fish move. **Recording this information saves much time on future trips** and keeps us fishing “where we have the best chance to catch a fish”.

Several **types of markers** were displayed. From **mini “stealth” markers, vertical tubes, and homemade Styrofoam blocks to commercial piggybacking or dumbbell type**, there are many options. They are simply a **floating object with a weight on the end of a string that unwinds**. They then stay in place on the lake to help us picture **where the changes are present** on the bottom. John Steponovitch asked about the **picture on the back cover of Buck Perrys’ book “Spoonplugging”**. It shows bars, humps, channels, breaklines, islands, breaks, and deep water in a lake with no water in it. This is **the view we must picture in our minds** of the lakes we fish so we can be fishing the best areas. **Mapping, using markers, and drawing structures is the fastest yet most thorough way we can accomplish that.**

Chase Klinesteker