

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2009

“TRAINING WELL WORTH IT”

The program was a discussion of **what was learned by the four students who took on-the-water Spoonplugging training from John Bales** October 1 and 2, 2009 in the Grand Rapids area. Charlie Myers, Roger Bouwkamp, Mike Dordan, and Bob Terpstra all felt that the training was well worth it, opening up new horizons in their fishing. Charlie Myers and Roger Bouwkamp started the program by **pointing out structures on the Murry lake map** projected on the wall. John had emphasized that you have not checked a structure thoroughly until you have **fished it down to 55 feet**. He said that it is acceptable to **contour troll deeper than 25 feet** because in most instances the **structures are broader and flatter in those depths**. **Straight line passes are most effective from 10 to 25 feet where most of the sharper depth changes occur**. Charlie drew on the marker board to illustrate this point.

Next the **map of Wabasis Lake was projected** and Mike Dordan got up to point out areas of where and how fish were caught. Mike and Bob wanted John to do deep water **fishing as well as mapping instruction**, and they ended up **catching several nice pike and bass on the 26 and 32 foot breaklines**. In finding **deep subtle breaklines**, Mike learned how to recognize them **when the flasher gets “nervous”**. These are slight breaklines that **mostly won’t be noticed on the LCR graph sounder**, but the fish can use them. Mike mentioned that he had taken some Spoonplugging training in the past on Mona Lake, but this deepwater work helped him understand more about what is going on shallower, and things seemed to fall in place. The **weather was miserable**---windy, rainy, and cold, but the **students felt the training was well worth the money and time spent**. Bob really learned to like the **flasher depth sounder** because of its’ **accuracy and quick readings**. He said that the experience was hard to explain, but that his eyes were really opened to new concepts. We all wish to thank John Bales for coming up to Michigan, and for his generosity in sharing his knowledge with all our members!

Chase Klinesteker