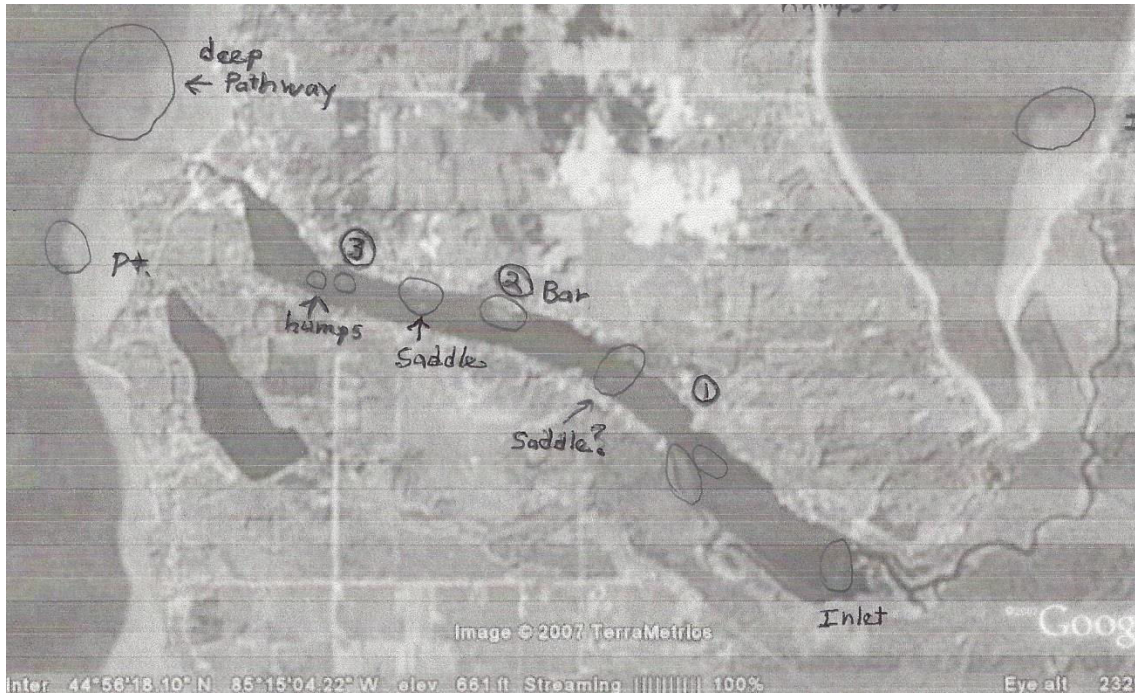


LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING MARCH 1, 2007

“GOOGLE EARTH LAKE MAPS”



Google Earth of Clam Lake, showing areas to check out

Chase led a discussion on what we might **gain from studying aerial maps of lakes**. He recently discovered **Google Earth** and **printed out pictures** of some area lakes. Close scrutiny on some maps revealed subtle differences on the lake surface that **show likely structures to fish**. He will be fishing **Clam Lake** this summer and that **picture showed several areas to check out**, including **humps, saddles, bars, reefs, and fingers**. Lake Belaire above it shows a lot also. Areas of **darker water color** often **contrast with clearer** water areas. **Fading areas** indicate a **deep break and possible contact point**. There is a definite contrast between **light shelf areas** and darker deep water where there is a **steep breakline**. These pictures give a very accurate shoreline shape, showing **points and bars** that we might not recognize when on the water. Many of the lakes studied showed very little. **Lower resolution** in these pictures was the **biggest problem**. Bob said that usually resolution is **better in more populated areas**, especially large cities, but not the suburbs. Terry Velting mentioned that Google Earth is free, but they have **paid subscriptions** that might have **better resolution**. Another website might be “**Topozone**”. He said he has seen someone using a **weather balloon to take aerial pictures** of local lakes, but didn’t have any contact information.

Other factors need to be considered since these are simply **photographs** of the lake **at a given day, time, and weather condition**. If a lake has very **dark water color**, there will be **no lighter color with shallow structures**. Some photographs **show reflected light** or **thin clouds** that will **confuse** what you see. The weather conditions and **atmospheric moisture** on the day the photo was taken will **affect the detail**. The **angle of the sun** on a few lakes **showed white areas** that were **just reflections**. Printing in **black and white** seemed to show **more contrast** and detail on the maps. This approach to gaining more map information still needs much work, but **whatever we learn will improve our knowledge about the lakes we fish**.

Chase Klinesteker