

LUNKER HUNTER MEETING SEPT. 3, 2009

“SALMON IN RIVERS”



Tom fishing in Barkley Lake

Tom Moore presented the program titled "Salmon in Rivers". He has done a lot of fishing in rivers for salmon and steelhead, especially **wading in downtown Grand Rapids** from the 6th Street Dam to the 96 bridge. A good wading fisherman will know all the structure and depths of the river section he is fishing, and Tom displayed **his knowledge in this area, naming individual structures or "runs"** including the **"hole in the wall"**, **"quarry"**, **"center run"**, and **"the cut"**. He knows the depths and lengths of the troughs so he can place his lures accurately. A **current of 2-3 mph** and **depth of 4-6 feet** seems to be **preferred by salmon**. **Steelhead often are shallower** and **related to log jams more** than the salmon, which like the deeper holes. If there is **no cover or deeper holes**, fish will **move quickly through an area**. Tom likes to keep moving and **cover much water**. Much of the time he uses Meps-like **weighted spinners** on a 7 or 7 ½ foot spinning rod with **17 pound Trilene XL line**. His casts are straight out or slightly upstream, letting the lure sweep downstream with the current. Tom emphasized **safety as a top priority**. Most deaths in this area of the river occur as boating accidents where the boat and occupants get caught in the boil of the coffer dams and can't get free. He recommends using a **wading staff** to probe depths, a **belt around the waders** to keep water out, and a **life jacket**, especially if your knowledge of the structures and depths is limited. Also, wear a hood on your head in case a lure springs back at you when pulling out a snag! I am inclined to believe that Tom knows what he is talking about---**his best day** on the Grand River fishing this way was **13 steelhead on 15 hits!** Tom really enjoys this kind of river fishing---he describes it as **"hand to hand combat with the fish"!**

Chase Klinesteker