

# AA PHANTOM FISHERMEN

First Splash 2009

HEY!...YOO HOO!.....HELLLLLLLLLLL00000000.....

Yes, friends of fins, we're back again. This will be our 18th season (we think), and if it seems like we might be getting a little crankier...you'll just have to live with it. Now if you want all the angling news that's fit to print, settle yourself in a comfy chair, relax....and find someone to read this to you. Sooner or later, you'll be hearing about one of your friends who's dumped her tackle box in the bottom of her AlumaCraft, or back-lashed his boatlift or tried to net a Northern with an upside down golf umbrella. We'll be watching you and your pals all summer long. But you WON'T be watching us....because we're the Phantom Fishermen!

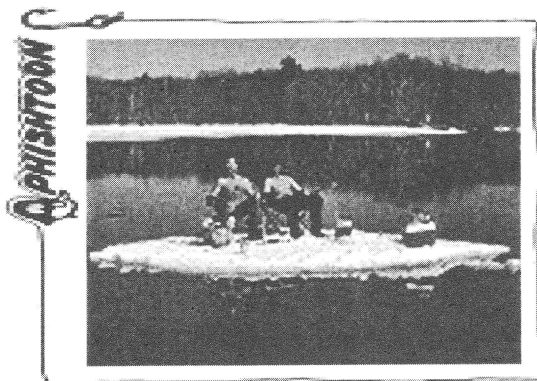
WHAT'S BITING ON WHAT THIS SPRING?

Well, as you'll remember as someone read our spring article to you back in 1997, the Bass won't be biting on anything. The lilacs have bloomed and Mister and Missus Bass have celebrated their intimate rights of spring (read spawned) and are now recovering from all that activity in some remote (read you can't find them) spot. But you MIGHT be able to catch a Northern...like on a white spinnerbait with gold willow leaf blades or maybe a daredevil spoon or a Johnson's weedless or...something else. And you can MAYBE catch some nice Sunnies on a little popper and a fly rod...they've been shallow lately. Of course if you're fly rod challenged, you'll have to rely on a waxie under a bobber not more than two feet down in 8 feet of water.

Finally, if it's after May 23 when someone is reading this to you, you can catch a Muskie (yeah...right). Muskie season opens on May 23rd in our zone, so take your brand new \$25 Hog Wobbler lure out and cast it 10,000 times and see what happens. And then wait until late summer before you try that again.

A READER ASKS...

Wapo's favorite retired detective, Frank Savino, asks, "Hey...what if I'm in the boat and I catch a Walleye and don't have a tape measure to see if it's legal?" Well, Frank, as you know, Walleyes have to be 16 inches long. So we asked our friend, confidant, guide and worm provider, Erling "Mort" Mortensen what to do. He reminded us of the "old fisherman" dollar bill trick. Here's the way that works, Frank: look in your wallet and see if you can find a dollar. There's one...right next to the dead moth. A dollar bill is exactly SIX inches long, so you'll need at least two. OK, if you line them up end to end, you'll be 4 inches short. So then take 2 quarters, a penny and two dimes and you'll be at 16 inches! That's \$2.71. If that's too pricey, just toss the fish back and look for something bigger.



Wapo's Tim Henningsgard (and friend, Biff) just couldn't wait for ICE OUT Crappies.

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## THE OTHER READER ASKS....

Bear Trap's Fred Kroog asks, "Hey, we LOVE you guys. Is there a BLOG or something like that where we can reach you?"

No.

## SHORT CASTS....

Wapo's Bill Cassidy is claiming he ate some GREAT Walleye just after the opener. According to Bill, McCormicks & Schmicks in Edina has a wonderful Walleye creation for less than \$30. Of course with wine bill... well...OK...never mind.

Bear Trap's Andrea Ruminsky sez she knows where the Crappies are...but she's not telling. By the way, Andrea (what a catch!) is getting married in a couple of weeks (eat you hearts out, single guys). Preferential wedding seating based on presentation of gift receipt, OK?