

**Eat, Sleep &
Go Fishing.**



**Musky
CPR!**

Inside this issue:

Gals on Ice 2

**Father & Son
take a Ride 2**

**The All Seasons 3
Marathon**

**What's New 3
for 2009**

**Article by 4
Mike Terrell**

Boat For Sale 4

**"Lunar Esox" 4
"Lunar Eyes"
Seminars Revised**

**Have Rod... Will Travel...
& Have Sled Will Travel...
The Professional Guide Service of the Northwoods
for all types of Fishing... & Snowmobile Tours
"Where Clients are Guest... & Guests Become Friends"**

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Snowmobile Season Coming to an End "Last Guest Riders"

Well it seems like we hardly got started this year with the snowmobile season and it is now coming to a close. My last guest riders were Matt & his wife Chris on February 26th.

Matt and Chris were here for a two day ride with a guided trip on their first day. Trail conditions that day I thought were going to be marginal but as we got out of town they improved to be very good. A big storm was in the forecast but did not help us this day as the front came in about 3:00 pm, of which we the got about 5 inches.

The extra snow helped improve conditions for the second day ride which they themselves had a great time.

Knowing that they were out the next day as an alone day I took a little extra time in briefing Matt on reading trail maps and the numbering system along with trail signage. All went well as our trip took us to Bauer's Bam and lunch at Bent's Camp in the U.P. of Michigan.

Chris started a little slow at first but quickly became an accomplished rider. It was a grand experience for them.

Now mid March and less snow our temps are now in the mid to upper 40's and it seems doubtful if there will be any more riding, however trails do not officially close until March 31st and we could maybe get a little more riding in. Last year if you recall we got close to a foot of snow on the 31st and I went for a ride that night and next day (April 1st) so it is possible.

Right now I am getting a little ice fishing in as the panfish season is open an this is a good time for catching them. Right now I am getting some good size gills and crappies with a few tips on some good perch.

Anyway for me I can say good-bye to this season as I want to get ready for open water. **Trail Riders... See you next Year!**



Matt & wife Chris



Kodak Time



Hot Chocolate Break

Walleye Opener Just Around the Corner

Every year around this time it seems the same; after a long winter you just can not wait to get back on the water. As I write this article it is the middle of March and I maybe on the water in 30 days so I am on the countdown right now. Possibly hitting Green Bay first then Marinette to get the cobwebs out; but it is not that far right now if we can get good weather.

The Northwoods opener will come early this year as the first Saturday of May is the Second. Last year 99% of the lakes had ice on them on this date but I see signs that an early ice-out maybe hear. I will predict April 14th.

Last year we worked some new walleye lakes and had good success, therefore I will be out

on an early scout this year. One thing we have to hope for is a lot of rain. We have been sitting on a long time drought right now and I would like to see a few of these lakes come back up so I can get out on them. Will be ready as this is gear time and I am stringing new line and cleaning up and restocking those tackle boxes. Plus I always have a new technique to try as well.

"Gals On Ice"



The Group



Kelly "The Bassmaster"



Just Having Fun

NO NOT A PLAY SHOW!

Gals on Ice was a real day of ice fishing with some good-humored young ladies from Chicago. These special gals Carolyn, Jessica, Kelly, Megan, and Jennifer, were looking for a Northwoods adventure. Carolyn head of the group booked me for an ice fishing outing. The Gals have never fished at all but wanted their first outing to be ice fishing.

The group showed up on time and were very enthusiastic about the event. All bundled up it started to be a little nasty, weather-wise, with some snow in the air and temps around 18 degrees. For a little convenience we went to an in-town lake and it was a good choice as the fishing was very good.

I told the girls I would log today's special outing with one of my videos, which can be

viewed on my website now: www.HaveRodWillTravel.com on the videos page titled "Gals on Ice".

This was an action packed day as I never had a chance to sit down. I set the girls up in a circle on a nice weed bed. I just got Megan setup and before I could move to the next she got her first fish. Then I got Kelly setup and she got her first fish. It was continuous like that for the first hour as it took me about that long to get everyone in the water.

Between the fishing action, camera action, and getting lines in the water it was "fun and excitement". I let each of the gals fish with one jigging rod and I wanted to set one tip-up for each of them as well. By the time all lines were in the water it was two and a half hours into the day, but the great experi-

ence was not only for them I had a great time as well.

Kelly became the Bassmaster as she caught several nice sized largemouth bass in her spot. One of those bass was about 3-1/2 pounds.

The highlight of the day was the two eagles that always watch the lake. I put a fish out on the ice for each one and the gals got a big thrill to see them swoop down and grab the fish in very close proximity. Truly a great day and I recommend everyone to see the video, got some good footage on the eagle.



Carolyn (Nice Bluegill)



Jessica (Tip-up Northern)



Megan's First Fish



Jennifer on some Big Gills

Father & Son take a Ride... and have a GREAT Time



Bob & son Mike



Lunch Stops Always Fun

A group is never too big or too small to enjoy the snowmobile tour. Bob made a plan well in advance to take his son Mike out for a ride. Mike who was 15 was big enough to ride a sled but not old enough without taking the snowmobile safety class. However, Bob got a two-up sled from Trackside and we hit the trail and the conditions were good. This was another ride up to Land O Lakes and the Michigan state line. We stopped at the Black

Oak Inn for lunch and you can see Mike enjoying his deep fried cheese sticks. After lunch the guys switch riders and Mike got a chance to drive.

I like giving everyone an opportunity especially in a controlled outing that I offer. Giving people a chance to become accomplished riders in the right locations.

Bob and I thought Mike was doing well enough that he drove the entire distance back

to their lodging. It was a good time and another one of my father & son outings. Plans for Bob will be for the family to get a couple of sleds in the near future.



A cup of Hot Chocolate, UMM

Doing The All Seasons Marathon

In my last newsletter I named Bill and Igor as my guests of the year, they both book an end of the summer walleye outing and a Fall Musky outing. The summer outing did not go well as they hit some bad weather on that day but they both got trophy muskies on the Fall Outing and very happy with that event.

It was not a surprise when Bill called me in December to tell me Igor and he wanted to do the Snowmobile tour and an Ice Fishing Outing as well. So I got them lined up for the first week of February, one day for ice fishing and one day for snowmobiling. We did the

snowmobiling first and we started with some pretty cold weather, we may have hit a high of 10 degrees that day. The guys had gone out and bought their own ice armor suits and some warm under layers, they were dressed for the occasion. As you can see Bill in the photo below it was a "frosty" start.

Snow conditions once again were good and the guys got familiar with their sleds rather quickly and they had a blast on the trail with the usual amenities.

The next day out we did some

fishing and the guys wanted some action and a good panfish meal. Bill got some rally nice Bass that was in the 4 pound range, while Igor caught those nice hand-size gills for a fish fry. The action was good and they guys finished their two days with me totally happy.

To round out the stay Bill and Igor are looking to come back in the Spring on a walleye hunt, this will bring them to a full year cycle with me and an All Season of Events.

Thanks Bill & Igor, see you come Spring!



Bill with a 4 lb. Largemouth



Igor Jigging up some Gills



A Few of those hand-size keepers for a nice fish fry. As many were released.



Bill with a "Frosty" Look



The Guys on their Cats



A Welcomed Warm Lunch

What's in Store for 2009?

I have come to terms the older you get the fast the clock ticks. It is 2009 and my 6th season guiding full time. Its seems like yesterday that I was going on fire & ambulance calls, that was 2003.

Anyway each year I seem to say the same thing this time of year, but I guess it is true. Learned a few more lakes last year but this year is going to be different. I have only one more lake that I wish to learn but I will go back to many of my first lakes and get more time on them. I have gone over my notes over the last few years and some places need a better look. I will try to work on better timing and more specifics , patterns and species. May & June always seem to be my best

walleye months, as the water warms musky and bass. I have become more efficient in the summer for crappies and will follow-up on that. More and more families are looking for that fun rod bending experience so I will pick up on that as well.

August can be tough but it is the time all species can be caught, many fish go deep and I will have to follow. Better electronics and more time on the water. In 2007 I had a good productive year with 148 days on the water; that was my personal best record and my goal will be to break it.

If I could predict a season I would like to see ice out early; waters warming slowly, far less

wind, and much more rain to fill the lakes. I would also like to see a warmer mean temp this year, last year we never had a day reach 90 degrees. This would make a very good season.

Finally I would like to see the season end with stable weather in the Fall. If we could get most turnover completed by mid to end September and water temps to stay below 50 degrees with no freezing until December, that would be great. It would create a good musky Fall season. You can not order weather so I will work hard to do the best with the resource that are given. I will give every effort to make this my best season ever. **2009 will be divine!**

**For 2009
Receive a 5%
Discount if you
confirm your
booking 30 Days
in advance!
You must Ask...**



Looking for Bigger Walleyes in 2009!

Have Sled ... Will Travel... Makes the Internet News



Mike Terrell

Mike Terrell an internet freelance sports writer visited Eagle River and I had the pleasure of taking him for a snowmobile tour; here is Mike's article.

Wisconsin's Eagle River Offers Great Snowmobiling

Feb 17, 2009 Mike Terrell, Regional Editor [Comments \(0\)](#)



Showing Mike the Signage



The annual Ice Castle Landmark did not appear this year as conditions were not the best at the time of cutting the blocks



BOAT FOR SALE!
1994 -176 Champion
DC Elite
2004 Mercury Optimax
150 hp

[Eagle River](#) proclaims itself the Snowmobiling Capital of the World, and they may well be right. With an abundance of snow-fall every year, it boasts some of the best snowmobiling in the world. Numerous area snowmobile clubs groom and maintain a 600-mile trail network. The trails wind through beautiful forests, across frozen lakes and meander along numerous small streams including the Wisconsin River in its early stages as a small stream.

Eagle River is also home to the World Championship Snowmobiling Derby, the World Snowmobile Headquarters is located here, and the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

"I can snowmobile from here up to Michigan's UP, over to Minnesota and down to Illinois if there's enough snow," said Fred Brogel, owner of Have Sled Will Travel, a local guide service. "We can head up into Canada and just about anywhere north from there for multi-day trips on the trail."

I hooked up with Brogel for a day of snowmobiling recently while staying for three nights at [Wild Eagle Lodge](#) located on the area's beautiful Chain of 28 Lakes. Wild Eagle offers a nice selection of multiple bedroom lakeside lodge homes.

I don't own a snowmobile which was intriguing about [Brogel's guide service](#). He imparts his considerable snowmobiling knowledge to you along the ride, and makes sure all the equipment and you are operating properly. He doesn't rent sleds, but points you to several options in the area. We went to Boat Sport Marina.

A normal day trip with Brogel will take you to the UP and possibly the Gogebic Mountains with a couple of warm-up stops along the way and a nice lunch at one of the local watering holes along the trail. Much of the ride is through forests with no signs of civilization. It was beautiful and exhilarating.

It was nice to be able to spend a day on the snowmobile trail without the hassle of owning and transporting my own sled and to have a knowledgeable guide lead me along the miles and miles of trails. This is a wonderful, safe opportunity if you've ever wanted to give the sport a try. *Snowgoer* Magazine readers have consistently ranked the Eagle River Area as the best snowmobile destination vacation in the nation over the last decade. Check out Nero's (715-477-0555) if you're in the area for some of the best contemporary Italian cuisine north of Chicago. It was a delightful surprise.

This Champion has a High- Performance setup with a CMC Powerlift Jack-plate, Hotfoot throttle control, Hydraulic Steering and four blade Stainless Steel Prop. Capable speed of 68mph Many Extras and in excellent condition. Need Info: go to the website at:

www.HaveRodWillTravel.com go to the For Sale Page, see the 20 minute video and all the amenities. It is rarely used with about 50 hours on the new Engine. Now asking **\$15,500.00**



Lunar Esox and Lunar Eyes Seminars to Continue

Just a reminder from the last newsletter I will continue my efforts for the best chance to catch fish at the most predictable times. Moonrise and moonset on the Full & New Moon are usually the best times barring local weather conditions. This year I will offer the same fishing education and techniques on an individual basis. All outings will be customized to the party making the booking. I will go one-on-one or work with a group, all Lunar Outings will meet the intent of those you wish to fish at these special times. For more information give me a call at 715-479-5873 or visit the website at www.HaveRodWillTravel.com and go to the **fishing seminars** page.