

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH....

by Alex Vitek

...The tough get out their Rabble Rousers. Whoa now! You are asking what is this Rabble Rouser thing?

The new Rabble Rouser is officially called the Pop's New Rabble Rouser. They have been on the market for about 5 years and are available at many of the small "mom and pop" tackle shops here in SE Michigan.

I had heard of them for a couple of years now and just plain was not that interested. That is, until this past spring when I was at the Novi Fishing Show helping out at the club table. During one of the breaks I came across a display of these lures and was impressed with the color schemes and the overall paint job. That night I went home with about 6 of these lures.

It ended up that I forgot about them until mid summer when the Walleye fishing on the upper Detroit River started to slow down in late June and early July. For a week or two I tried all those spoons that had produced fish before and the Rapalas and the "wobblers" and the "spinners" with just moderate success. Then one day another club member, Curt "Hot-wired" Kratt mentioned the Rabble Rousers he had bought earlier in the year and I suddenly remembered the lures still in the travel tackle bag.

So, the next trip out on the upper river a Rabble Rouser ended up on the end of a leader. The action was great; a steady wiggle without an overly aggressive action to it. To be honest but on that trip no fish hit that particular lure. But, the next day things changed. The lure started being attacked by just sub-legal sized Bass and the Walleye did hit it.

On several trips the majority of the Walleye taken were on a Rabble Rouser. On one trip each Walleye towards a Michigan Detroit River limit came on Rabble Rousers. I had talked to Curt recently and he mentioned that he has taken a limit with his Rabble Rousers in the middle river area down near the "Casino" or "Ambassador Bridge" area.

Then, this past August I found out that Bob Barnes took in a large Walleye while fishing for the August Derby. Guess what the lure was. Yep, a Rabble Rouser. In talking to the person who makes and markets this lure I was told that the winning fish in the Algonac Pickerel Tournament a couple of years ago was taken on a Rabble Rouser. Just so that Bob can brag his fish was larger and is still the largest Walleye known to have been caught with one of these lures.

Some notes of interest to the club members are that the current color paint patterns are 46 in both regular paint and in chrome. That sure is a lot of choices. This lure can be fished by all popular methods including wire-lining, pulling bottom bouncers, whipping, rod & reel trolling, and on Dipsey and downrigger set-ups. It is a versatile lure for sure.

The lure can be found at Lakeside Fishing Shop in St. Clair Shores and at Blue Water Bait in Fair Haven. Incidentally, both of these stores are sponsors of our summer derbies. The Rabble Rousers are also sold at Anderson Pro Bait in Port Huron and at Wise True Value Hardware in St. Clair.



These old lures were called Rabble Rousers and are sought after by collectors. The photos were found on the internet at the web site of a lure collector.



This is my favorite Rabble Rouser so far. It is painted in the traditional Clown color scheme. Here it is next to a custom painted Size #7 Rapala for comparison.