

### Any Fish Bites If You Got Good Bait

By Kenn Hartmann

OK, so how's this for an idea? For all of the biker bars located on water, I mean fresh water, not the industrial toxic ponds like we have in Chicago; we can have a Biker Bar Fishing contest. Now I'm not suggesting you can't catch fish in the toxic ponds and sewers around Chicago. We have an unfair advantage though. The radiated fish are bigger and glow in the dark therefore easier to spot. You can actually use beer cans and bungy cords for bait.



Now for the Biker Bar fishing contest there'd have to be some rules. It'd be wise for anglers to be licensed. One time I was at a Winnebago pow-wow at Black River Falls Indian Mission. It attracted Indians from all over the country. Large Bill came from California with ocean fishing tackle, a rod the size of a flag pole and a reel as big as a winch off a Jeep Wrangler. He took one look at the Black River and laughed. The dark tannic water swirled over shallow riffles and deep pools. You could skip a stone from bank to bank. 'There can't be any fish in this ditch,' Large Bill smirked, obviously accustomed to tuna.

I hobbled to the river while aligning the ferrules on an old rod picked up in camp. I wore a plaster cast over my foot up to below the knee – the result of a midnight highway mishap a few weeks earlier. Cocked the bale on the reel and cast into the current just to limber the line. Bang. Hooked into a small Northern Pike, maybe a twenty-seven inch fish; a blast to catch on the first cast. Large Bill freaked out. He scrambled to get his heavy weight gear into the stream. Large Bill protested when I wanted to release the fish. He suggested we eat it. He cut the fillets and fried it in a campfire skillet with onions and potatoes. We had it for dinner and breakfast. Large Bill was hooked on Wisconsin waters. Suddenly the stream appeared mysterious and deep.

The next day we headed to where Hall's creek empties in the Black River. Slowly ambling like a cripple down the steep embankment, I noticed a commotion in the brush to my right. It was Bud Serious, from South Dakota, running like a banshee. 'Hey, Bud!' I yelled and he looked right at me and kept running. Hmmm. A few moments later a couple of picnickers staggered up from the river. 'We've been robbed! Someone stole our picnic basket.' Perhaps it was Yogi Bear I suggested and went down to the river to fish. After a few casts the sheriff showed and I was arrested for fishing without a license and spent the weekend in the Jackson County slammer. Pleasant enough but I missed the pow-wow. On Monday morning before the judge I explained 'just practicing my casts.' He listened intently and then said, 'the bottom line is you need a license for everything.' After my release, I hobbled down the gangster route - an alley in the thriving metropolis of Black River Falls. I wore a crappy gym shoe on one foot, a dirty plaster cast on the other, ragged cut-off jeans, a ratty t-shirt and scraggly hair to my shoulders. I tried to blend in. A squad car pulled up. It was the sheriff who originally busted me on the river. I thought for sure I was about to get busted for stealing their precious tin cup out of the jail cell. He asked, 'where you headed?' I said, 'to the highway to hitchhike out of here.' But he didn't want me hitchhiking on his turf so he drove me about 20 miles to the Trempealeau County Line out on 94 and bid me adieu. As he drove away I pulled the tin cup out from under my shirt and polished it against my jeans. Ultimately cool. An authentic Jackson County slammer tin cup.

So we've established rule number one for the biker bar fishing contest. Have a license. It helps with wildlife management. Especially when things get too wild, it's easier to manage. For a complete set of the other rules send an email to [bikerbars@yahoo.com](mailto:bikerbars@yahoo.com) and request 'Rules for Biker Bar Fishing Contest' pamphlet. Of course any business that advertises in Free Riders Press is eligible to participate. As are FRP readers.

-Kenn Hartmann

[www.chicagobikerbars.com](http://www.chicagobikerbars.com)

**LOOK AT THAT**  
 Biker • Fetish • Bondage • Punk Leather  
**The Leather Store**  
 Repairs • Alterations • Custom  
 Toby Sigle  
 Hours: Tue.-Thurs. 10-7,  
 Fri.-Sat. 11-8,  
 917 Williamson St. • Madison, WI 53703  
 (608) 663-BIKE (2453)  
[lookatthat@charterinternet.net](mailto:lookatthat@charterinternet.net)  
[www.lookatthatsite.com](http://www.lookatthatsite.com)

**ACTION MOTORCYCLE**  
 NEW, USED PARTS & SERVICE  
 Buy Sell Trade **10% OFF**  
 103 W. St. Charles Rd  
 Lombard, IL 60148  
**630-629-6506**  
 Tues-Thur 3-9 Wed 1-7  
 Fri 3-7 Sat 10-3  
 Featuring Custom Triple Trees  
[www.customtripletrees.com](http://www.customtripletrees.com)

## This Old Bike™

20 % Off With  
 Flood Run Wrist Band  
 On Parts/Accessories

### Spring Flood Run Promo

Dates of Sale: 4/21/2007  
 and 4/22/2007

Time of Sale: 8:00 a.m.

We are conveniently located on the Flood Run's historical Hwy. 35 in Pepin, WI



Buy, Sell, Trade,  
 Consignment Sales,  
 New and Used Parts for  
 ALL Harley Davidson  
 Motorcycles

This Old Bike™

210 Lake Street  
 Pepin, WI 54759

715-442-2228 Phone  
 715-442-2268 Fax

We have new and used parts for ALL Harley Davidson motorcycles. We also offer a full service shop and a good selection of riding apparel. So stop in! Check out our new store and our line of used motorcycles for sale.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to save BIG!

- Door prizes being given away all day!
- In-store discounts!
- Food and Beverage!
- Live Entertainment
- Outside swap meet!
- Vendor Space Available!

[www.ThisOldBike.us](http://www.ThisOldBike.us)

# Why Sturgis when there's Elroy!?

**ELROY BIKE MEET  
 JUNE 8, 9 & 10**

**A Rural Hill &  
 Valley Experience**

**BOOK ONLINE @  
[www.elroybikemeet.com](http://www.elroybikemeet.com)**