

# HOLE NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S DESK CONTINUED

meeting and extravaganza..EVER!!!!

My position and the availability of this column gives me license to gloat about this subject. If anyone wants further information, or a fishing lesson, I can be contacted at the phone number listed elsewhere in this issue!!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DALE CALDWELL

There I was...eyeball to eyeball with the biggest walleye I had ever seen! Certainly the biggest walleye Mark Smith had ever seen! The entire hole in the ice under the fish house was filled with the gigantic walleye's head. As I worked the fish into position to get it into the house, my heart was pounding. I slowly pulled the fish out of the water. I could not believe my good fortune. The big fish was one third out of the water when I found a broken line was all I held in my hands. My heart stopped beating momentarily. The walleye began to sink back through the hole in the ice. I screamed in anguish, "Darn it!!!" At that instant I thought all was lost. I began imagining that no one back at the lodge would believe that I was this close to actually catching a fish that wasn't an eel pout or a rock bass, particularly with Mark Smith as my only witness. Others would know that Mark had accompanied me on fishing excursions in the past. At that moment I knew I had to have that fish in my possession or forget about telling this tale. Especially, considering my reputation as a less than average liar at the liar's poker table. I plunged my hands into the icy water up to my elbows, grabbed the big fish by the gills, hoisted it through the hole and threw it to the floor of the fish house, exhausted. Mark adequately summed up the fierce battle as he stared at the huge walleye and said, "Holy cow, what a fish!"

This entire episode took place within twenty minutes from the time we positioned ourselves in the fish house. We didn't catch another walleye the remainder of the time spent fishing, which amounted to the next nine hours. It was worth it as we were the last to arrive at the lodge for dinner and the business meeting. I walked through the lodge in the company of one of the largest walleyes caught during the January fishing