



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

August 2015

MEETINGS: 7:30 P.M. ~ FOURTH THURSDAY ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Big fish, and plenty of them, being caught

By Steve Ruhmann
Release chairman

Howdy fellow Flatlanders. Last write up I asked you to get out and catch some fish and you folks did just that! We start this month's with Craig Born. Craig was out dredging up the depths and stuck a super fat 49 from Waubesa. Bone Lake specialist Frank Wilary adds to the list with fish measuring 32, 44.5 and 42. Not to be outdone by his dad, Ben Wilary stuck his personal best of 48 on a figure 8. He followed that up with a 35-incher. Congrats Ben! Stuart Adrian has been hitting a few different bodies of water and popped fish measuring 32 from Wingra, 45 from Waubesa, 32, 36, 37.5, and 41 during the Lake of the Woods outing. Stu's partner Jerry Oestreich did fantastic on the LOTW outing by poking Lunge of 32, 32, 33, 46.5, 45, 36, 38.5, and 41. As you saw in the previous newsletter, Charlie Wilhelmson stuck his Wisconsin personal best of 47.25 from Waubesa. Bob Cholke was out on Wingra and fooled a 33.5 to eat his topper stopper. Brother Dick Cholke during the LOTW trip had a great trip by releasing fish of 39.5 and 48 inches. Dick's partner Jack Pertz also did well with by boating fish that bumped the board at 33, 45, 30, 32, 46, 45, 32, and 46. The 48 incher was the longest fish caught during the outing. Way to go Dick!! On the same trip, Harvey Gustafson released a 41 and his grandson Derek caught his first muskellunge measuring 46 inches. A Big SALUTE goes out to Grandpa and Grandson. My partner Mike Kruger and I on the same trip did well for ourselves. Mike stung fish measuring 40, 41, 40, and 40. I was able to release a few also with Esox measuring 32.5, 34.5, 37.5, 40.5 and 43. Dick Estes and Wally Haas also made the assault on LOTW with Dick popping fish measuring 46.5, and 44. Wally boated fish of 33, 39.5, 39.5, and 47. Sticking with the LOTW theme, partners Dave Jack and Tim Scruggs popped some nice fish. Dave's fish measured in at 33.5, 41, 43, 44, 38, 36.9, 40.5, and 36.5. Tim added to their totals with a last minute cardiac fish measuring 39.5. Current Men's Masters Division leader Jeremy Venhuizen has added to his awesome total with a fish from Twin Valley measuring 36 inches. He then went to Lake of the Pines and boated fish measuring 38, 31, 31, 35, 36, and 36. He



Kevin Stenzel caught this 51-incher on Lake St. Clair.



Another St. Clair fish: Russ Hoerneck with a 47.5.

followed that up with the journey to LOTW and stung fish measuring 39, 37.5, 36.5, 34, and 38. Travis Brady has been hanging around Illinois and was rewarded for his efforts scoring fish that measured 32, 33, and 32 from Shabbona. Greg Lehman also headed to northern Wisconsin and stuck a 34.5 from Catfish and then proceeded over to North Twin and banged a 41, 30.5, 33.5, and a beautiful 45 inch tiger. We will close this month's updates out with the Hoerneck's. Mary and Russ first were out on Lake St. Claire with boating fish of 42 and 41 inches. Russ chipped in and stuck a 45 incher. They then made their annual trip to Canyon Lake. Mary was on her game with her famous purple Mepps and

popped fish measuring 34, 37, 32, 30, 34, 39, 38, 34, 34, 31, 41, and 33. Guide and netman Russ also put a few in the boat with fish measuring 35, 36, 33, 34, 36, 33, 34, 33, 36, 32, 34, 42, 39, 33, 38, and 39 inches. Great trip Hoernecke's !!!! Well, that is it for this month. I have been told there are more forms on the way so stay tuned to next month. Keep those hooks sharp and those hooksets hard!

Please remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080

Lake St Clair does it again! 4 guys X 2 Days = 17 Fish

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

If you are keeping track of the data, that is one more than last year's trip. This year Russ Hoernecke organized another good trip with Jack Pertz, Dick Cholke and Kevin Stenzel heading out of St. Clair Shores/Detroit on Fins and Grins Charters. Jason Quintero wanted to make sure that we got some big fish this year. Well he accomplished his goal and provided another quality charter on Aug. 6-7.

Thursday morning started out slow on the south end of the lake. By 11 a.m. he was pulling baits and we headed to the middle of the lake. Action improved with a 6 fish day. That is great fishing anywhere but not up to Jason's expectations. He hoped Friday would be better – it was!

Kevin Stenzel drew number one for the rotation to lead off of the trip. Luck was with Keven and he was the only one to land a fish over 50". His 51" fish was his personal best and first fish over 50". But Keven's luck continued with a five fish total with the 51", 48", 46", 44 and 37". Dick finished with a 42", 38.5", 36" and a 34". Jack almost got in a groove with the 40-inchers. He wound up with 40", 40", 39.5" and a 42". Russ added four more fish to his total with a 47.5", 44", 41" and a 35. Not only did we catch good numbers of fish but also we came



That's not a boulder, it's a snapping turtle caught by Dick Cholke. Estimated shell length: 20 inches.

back with more insight of trolling the big water. The two Jason's, captain and first mate work very efficiently setting up 12 rods. The setup included: two down rods in the prop wash, two out rods and four rods on each plainer board. Ten fish came on large bucktails and the remainder on crank baits. The bucktails were usually double tens with three skirts. Jason relies heavily on his electronics for fishing what appears to be a near structureless lake – at least by our standards. Side imaging is key to finding bait fish and the actual muskies. One large screen is dedicated to side imaging. Fins and Grins offer both trolling and casting charters. They are a quality charter service and do their best to keep you on fish

There's a lot more after the ad page

Club president Jeff Blanck gives us an update on fishing the PMTT with Tom Rizzio on the page after the ads. Also, the up-to-date release contest standings appear after Jeff's write-up. This is a FIVE-page newsletter this month. Be sure to read all the way through. There's a lot of good stuff here. And, don't forget, our meeting is Thursday at the VFW.

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A photograph of a man wearing a cap and sunglasses, holding a large fish (likely a muskie) on a boat. The background shows a lake and trees.

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Logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, and Arctic Cat. The Sea-Doo logo includes the text "DRP". Below the logos is the slogan "SHARE OUR PASSION".

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An illustration of fishing lures, including a spinner and a soft plastic lure, next to a drawing of a fish. A fishing hook is also depicted.

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A drawing of a Yamaha outboard motor.

963-1105

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A photograph of a white floating lodge on a lake. The lodge has a deck and a railing. In the background, there are trees and a forest.

Michael Starratt

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Tournament tales

By Jeff Blanck

Flatlanders president

Wally asked me to do a little write up about my PMTT tournament experience so far and I must say that this year has been an enjoyable trail, to say the least. It is probably because my partner, Tom Rizzio, and I have caught a couple fish. We haven't caught anything earth shattering like others in the tournaments have done, but our catches have made the events more exciting and we have gained new knowledge about lakes and techniques along the way.

The PMTT consists of three qualifying events and a championship event for the top 35 qualifying teams. The first leg of the trail was in April at Cave Run in Kentucky. This event was special because the lake was experiencing record high waters. The lake was 31' ABOVE NORMAL POOL! It was crazy! We were fishing around tree tops, parking lot light poles, fences and other things that are normally way up on shore away from the lake front. It made for some interesting structure targets while casting. Tom was able to get a 33 3/4" fish to eat his Suick during a feeding window that put us on the board. Unfortunately, we were not able to catch any more that may have put us in the money (top 10 for the event). It was very interesting to witness what many Flatlanders have seen over the years when a feeding window opens. The judge boats were getting called left and right as many boats within sight were catching fish. It's pretty cool to see and at the same time you are hoping to get that hit before the window closes. The pattern that showed itself that weekend was to camp on a spot and wait out the fish, fan casting an area that you knew held fish. This was a familiar pattern that proved successful at the 2014 Mille Lacs event where the bite was non-existent. The winners had fished the lake before and knew of a couple good spots. Rather than run around, they camped on the spot and waited for the window to open. When it did, they caught two fish in a short time and won the event. Cave Run was the same. The winners sat in the same spot ALL DAY and caught numerous fish to clinch the win. It can get kind of boring, throwing to the same stuff over and over again, but it works.

The second leg was on the Eagle River Chain in June. The bite was slow again, especially for us, but there are always a few that figure something out. We raised only a few fish and had no takers that could help us out. This was particularly disappointing in that both Tom and I know the Chain very well but we struggle to get a fish in the net at that event for some reason. I guess it's still musky fishing and there is no guarantee. It's very humbling when everyone around you is getting fish and you're notsigh.

The third leg was on Lake Vermilion, a lake I fish a lot, so it was nice to see it on the schedule this year. This event proved to be a record setting event with the largest fish ever reported in the PMTT history (57 1/2") and more big fish than ever turned in. We were able to get on the board



Tom Rizzio and Jeff Blanck with a 33.75-incher caught in April at Cave Run.



Jeff caught this 47.5t on a crappie-colored Phantom.

on day 2 with a skinny 47 1/2" fish I caught on a large crappie Phantom soft tail. This fish also got us on the board for trail points but not in the money during that event. We found fish on a few favorite spots that many of us have fished before. Those spots proved to be good during this event as we saw numerous fish only a few feet away from each other on each spot. It made for a good milk run during the event as we didn't have to travel far from one spot to another. Even considering Vermilion gets a lot of fishing pressure, then adding in a tournament, the lake handled it well. There is plenty of water for tournament anglers and non-tournament anglers alike. We never had any issues with getting cut off, it was close because others liked the same spots we did, but we didn't have issues.

The excitement of going in to the virtual weigh-in to see how the lakes responded to the different techniques is always surprising. There are times of realizing you didn't do so bad and times of "holy cow, we got our butts kicked". I feel the two most valuable things in these events is seeing where others fish on the lakes and what others were using to catch fish. Vermilion was interesting to find out that event though we were seeing fish on white colored glide baits, the pattern for catching multiple fish was burning dark colored bucktails. We threw bucktails

