



# FLATLANDERS

## TAILS

April 2014

---

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

---

## Time to get out, do some serious fishing

There's a lot going on in the next few weeks so this month's meeting will be an opportunity to catch up and find out what the club has planned for the rest of the year. Some of the topics will be addressed in this newsletter, but if you attend this month's meeting you can get all your questions answered.

### Fishing league starts April 23

The new season is upon us and things are actually looking pretty good. Pierce has been open for over a week and boats are out. This year we've added a second body of water, the Rock River. We will continue to fish for 10 weeks with the first week being April 23 this will carry through until the last week in June. Fishing starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 9. Any fish caught before or after those times do not count in league standings. This is an honor system league, points will be awarded for attendance, fish caught (Muskies Inc. points system) and the net man gets points. I will need assistance from other members as the weeks go on keeping track of attendance especially with the river being added this year. We will continue with the \$20 fee. Please make this available the first night of fishing. If there are any questions feel free to contact Tim Scruggs.

Email - [scruggsbay@yahoo.com](mailto:scruggsbay@yahoo.com)

or Call leave a message - 815-270-0014

Note: This is Individual points only not team.

### Message from the president

I just received an email reminder for my Muskies, Inc renewal. That was the first time I got one of these e-mails. I went to the website and easily updated my membership. With the fishing season already starting in some states and about to begin in the northern states, be sure to check your membership expiration date so it can be renewed and your fish entries are valid. Good luck out there this season – *Jeff Blanck*

### 2015 awards banquet

The tentative plan is to return to the VFW for the 2015 awards banquet March 14, 2015. The date may change,

depending on the availability of the VFW, but we plan to have the banquet that day or the week after.

### Awards will change

The awards banquet is the club's biggest expense. The executive committee has discussed revamping the awards, either cutting back on how many places are awarded or coming up with less expensive awards. For example, there will be awards for the top 10 finishers in the men's division, but it will not be the mugs that have been provided in past years. The rules will not change. We'll have details at upcoming meetings and in upcoming newsletters.

### Leaders & Lures night.

Gene Seuring and the executive committee are discussing a Leaders & Lures night for the May meeting. You would be able to buy any of Gene's fish-catching baits at a wholesale price with 10 percent of the profits going to the club. Gene would like to involve other fishing clubs and bait makers. We hope to have more information at this month's meeting and in next month's newsletter.

### Canada dreaming

From Steve Ruhmann: It is time to start thinking about our July trip to Lake of the Woods. I just talked to Frank at Baystore Camp and he advised that if anyone wanted to come in a day earlier (Friday July 11) we could do so but he would like us to not arrive before 2 p.m. but we need to provide them a total head count for how many are coming in early. They are sponsoring Operation Muskie the week before we arrive and will have the cabins available for Friday evening. The cost will be between \$53-\$55 for the additional evening. So if you are interested, please let Baystore and myself know. Also, if you are going up and plan on traveling with one of the groups, last year several people stayed at the Royal Dutchman Hotel in Baudette. (Phone: [218-395-2126](tel:218-395-2126)) This hotel requires a greater distance traveled by water but does not require you to drive your rig down the gravel road. The only downside to going this route is we need to get an I-68 pass for U.S.

customs. (cannot order ahead of time) Everyone last year did this and it worked out fine. In previous years, people have stayed at the Patch Motel in Warroad. (phone: [218-386-2723](tel:218-386-2723)) Staying at this hotel does not require you to get an I-68 but again you have to drive your rig down 45 minutes of gravel road which will chip up your trailer and boat. So those are the options, if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. Home phone: [815-389-4622](tel:815-389-4622) or my cell [815-558-3666](tel:815-558-3666). LOTW will rock again in 2014!



### Spring Lake North

From Senior Correspondent Dick Cholke: A guy at the launch said he got 140 muskies on Thursday March 27.

In total he got 300 muskies in 3 days! I believe him – I saw his livewell on Friday and he unloaded about 50 really nice fish and many of them were over 40". The largest was a 27 pounder on Thursday. I have photos of some of the fish.

All of the fish came out of the trap nets set by crew from the Jake Wolf Hatchery on North Spring Lake, IL. All the fish will be back in the lake Monday or Tuesday. The biologist was very happy with the results of the netting this year. Note: they took out about one fish per acre - and I wonder how many fish were still in the lake. The ratio was about 3 males to every female. These fish are the brood stock for all of Illinois muskie stocking programs.

Friday water temperature was 46°, ten rigs in the parking lot, only two boats had follows – none caught, as far as I know. I guess they had other things on their minds – the biologist indicated they spawn at 50°. A different guy at the launch showed me photos of two fish caught last fall before waterfowl season – a 48" and a 45". Note: there is a 25 HP limit on the lake and it does close for waterfowl season. In addition, any time after late April the lily pads are so heavy you cannot get out.

The weather man was wrong – it was a very cool (cold) day.

### Outings schedule

**May 3:** Wingra

**June 13-15:** Lake Alice/Mohawksin.

**July 12-20:** Lake of the Woods

**Sept. 12-14:** Deer-Bone-Apple River-Wapogossit

**Oct. 10-12:** Oxbow

**Oct.30-Nov.2:** Lake Vermilion

**Cost:** \$25.

**The winner gets:** A fishing rod custom made by Dave Jack.

**Questions:** Call Tim Scroggs: 815-270-0014.

### Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

- To promote a high quality Muskellunge sport fishery
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies
- To promote Muskellunge research
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
- To support the abatement of water pollution
- To maintain records of habits, growth and range of species
- To disseminate Muskellunge information
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

### Officers & Committee Chairs

#### President

Jeff Blanck 703-9365

#### Vice President

Dave Jack 389-1132

#### Treasurer

Jack Pertz 629-2562

#### Secretary

Wally Haas 262-4891

#### Regional Vice President

Jack Pertz 629-2562

#### Members Only Contest

Tim Scroggs 270-0014

#### Membership

Mark Thiessen 713-9705

#### Merchandise

Wally Haas 262-4891

#### Newsletter Editor

Wally Haas 262-4891  
Email: [whaas17@comcast.net](mailto:whaas17@comcast.net)

#### Outings

Tim Scroggs 270-0014

#### Photo Contest

Kris Lamendola 815- 389-4622  
Email: [krislamendola@gmail.com](mailto:krislamendola@gmail.com)

#### Pierce Lake Project

Jeff Blanck 703-9365

#### Programs

Steve Ruhmann 389-4622

#### Stocking

Jeff Blanck 703-9365

#### Website

Tom Pellant 397-1779

#### Youth Director

Amy Hollister 608-295-1175

Web site:

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

# Muskie Quiz

More from Dick Cholke: The following quiz was developed after attending the Muskie School in March. See if you think like the guys from the Capital City Chapter of Muskie Inc. Most questions are based on the Madison Chain.

1. What is the best early season lake on the Madison Chain?
2. What should you do early season when the fishing is slow and the water is clear?
3. There is an unusual early season trolling bite on Lake Monona for two weeks based on the bait fish suspending over deep water. Which dates should you fish this pattern on a normal year? This year may be different.
  - a. First two weeks of May
  - b. Last two weeks of May
  - c. First two weeks of June
  - d. Last week of May and the first week of June
4. You should follow the \_\_\_\_\_ to stay on the muskie bite.
5. What is the favorite color bait early season on the Madison Chain?
6. What is Mike Collin's (guide) favorite color on the Wisconsin River?
7. Early season you should troll close to the \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. What is one of the favorite trolling baits on the Madison Chain? This one is not what you would expect!
9. What is the loudest bait underwater?
10. Do solunar tables vary?
11. What type of bottom should you fish early and late season?
12. For \$20 you can receive the waypoints of structure on the Madison Chain. Which scuba diver should you contact?
13. During the late season guide Jim Stroede will fish in the back of the boat. His customers are in the front and middle of the boat. What bait does he fish in the back of the boat and usually catches the most fish?
14. Do not move away from a \_\_\_\_\_ when muskie fishing.

When you see the answers, see if you agree. We could discuss the answers at the next meeting.

1. Wingra
2. Mark waypoints on your GPS of any weed beds. When the water gets off color you will know where to fish the hidden weed beds.
3. "C" The last two weeks of May – this year may be later due to the late spring
4. Bluegills
5. White
6. Black
7. Weed edge – within one cast distance – the closer the better
8. Yes – the presenters liked John Alden Knight's Solunar tables the best
9. Spoonplugs 700 and 800 Series – these are small baits! Some guys like white, while others only catch northerns on white. Yellow, yellow and black have been good producers. A spoonplug trolled 15' behind the boat in the prop wash will run about 7' deep. They almost always have at least one spoonplug in their setup, sometimes more.
10. Jointed Believer
11. Sand
12. Rick Kruger 921 Fairmont Ave. Madison WI 53714 Phone 608- 241-7798 Rk\_diver@hotmail.com The presenter said it is the best \$20 he has spent on muskie fishing.
13. Fuzzy Duzzit, Bondy Bait or an Echo Tail off the bottom
14. Loons – they do not like people – they are there for a reason – bait fish

In all, we found the Muskie School very informative and I would recommend it to anyone that wants to learn more about muskie fishing and the Madison Chain. We felt we received better information than we did from some of the big name speakers at the shows. All the presenters were very open and welcomed questions.

## Support Our Advertisers



**LAC SEUL FLOATING LODGES**  
HUDSON ONTARIO  
PROVIDING OUR GUESTS WITH AN ENJOYABLE  
HOUSE-BOATING EXPERIENCE FOR OVER 25 YEARS

**Michael Starratt**  
Lac Seul Floating Lodges  
Box 210, Hudson, ON P0V 1X0  
Tel: 807-582-3284  
email: info@lacseulfloatinglodges.com  
web: www.lacseulfloatinglodges.com



**LEADERS & LURES** Leaders:  
All Sizes & Weights  
[www.leadingsandlures.com](http://www.leadingsandlures.com) • 815-654-0902  
Gene Seuring • Rockford, Illinois  
E-mail: leadingsandlures@gmail.com

A Division of  
GS Specialties Inc.

**Loves Park Motorsports**  
9902 N. SECOND ST.  
MACHESNEY PARK, IL  
815.636.7636  
FAX 815.633.2746

**Dave Jack**  
*Your #1 Arctic Cat and Skidoo DealerShip*  
[www.LovesParkMotorsports.com](http://www.LovesParkMotorsports.com)

- Snowmobiles • ATV's
- Boat Service & Repair
- Bombardier Watercraft
- Clothing • Accessories



**YAMAHA**  
EXPECT A LOT.™  
SALES ~ SERVICE ~ PARTS  
CRESTLINER ~ CROWNLINE  
SYLVAN

**EVEN KEEL MARINE INC.**  
*Even Better Than You Think*

6621 W. State  
Rockford, IL

**963-1105**

**Tuffy**  
Wisconsin's Best

## CARLSON ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC

Mark E. Carlson, M.D.

Elissa Russell, APN, CNP

1848 Daimler Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61112

Phone: 815/398-9100  
Fax: 815/986-6770

