



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

April 2016

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

Russ Hoernecke lands the first fish of 2016

*By Steve Ruhmann
Release chairman*

Hello again fellow Flatlanders. It has been awhile since we have been able to report on fish being caught. Well we have two so far for the year. Russ Hoernecke was out fishing for trout at a local park and on his way home he stopped at the Oregon dam to try for some walleyes. The walleyes were not cooperating but around 7:15 PM, Russ caught a 41 incher on a jig and twister. This is the first fish of the year for the club but it is not the first time Russ has been the first Flatlander to catch a fish to start out our year. Congrats Russ. We also have new member Aaron Wiegel. Aaron was down on Lake Storey and released a 34.5-incher. It was the only fish they saw that day but it sure is wonderful to have it be a fish in the net.

Now that the season has gotten underway, please remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days of when you caught them to:

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080

Notes from the bow of the boat

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

We have a lot of news this month. So here goes!

Thanks to all that attended our annual awards banquet. I believe everyone had a good time and it was great to recognize the achievements of our members. We were successful with our raffles and silent auctions. We covered the expenses for all the awards and made a small amount to keep our chapter strong. We are ready to start the 2016 season. A few guys are on the board already.

The April Meeting is the Leaders and Lures night. Gene Seuring will sell his great tackle at a discount for everyone to get ready for the new season. In addition, Jeremy Venhuizen will be making a presentation about our first outing on Saturday April 30. Jeremy will discuss the approaches on Lake Story and Lake McMaster. These are new lakes for Flatlanders outings. In the past two



Russ Hoernecke caught this 41-incher in March.



Aaron Wiegel caught this 38-incher on Lake Carlton.

years a few members have shown that fishing can be good early season down south. This should be a good outing, don't miss it. Charge your trolling motor batteries – Story is an electric motor only lake and McMaster is 10 HP maximum. In addition, Steve Ruhmann will head up a discussion on the Madison Chain outing. The May outing is before the monthly meeting, so we will be setting the stage for another good couple of days of fishing.

You Asked for It! The May Meeting will get us more informed on the other side of Muskie fishing. A few guys have asked to learn more about trolling. We are happy to get Steve Reinstra of the Capital City Chapter to make a presentation on trolling. Steve is an avid troller and teaches the class on trolling at the Spring Muskie School



every year. I have been to his presentation and you will find it very informative. Trolling offers the angler a different approach to get fish in the net. If you take a look at the Muskie Inc. Database for Ohio you realize that it works. Ohio produces some great action with 95 percent of those fish recorded caught by trolling.

Congratulations go out to Greg Lehmann for his big win at the Jake Wolf Memorial IMTT tournament at North Spring Lake. Greg and his partner, Dylan Gano outfished the other 25 teams on that really nice weekend. Here are Greg comments

"Well two full days of warm weather and not a cloud in the sky made the bite difficult. Day one we managed to see 9 fish and two eaters (35.5 and 34.5). At the end of day one we were sitting in first place. Eight other boats caught one fish. Today (Sunday) was brutal ... No wind and hot, hot, hot. We fished hard and only saw 5 fish, but one eater (33.25). We didn't think that was good enough, but it turns out it was. We ended up winning the IMTT! "

Congratulations go out to Joe Rausenberger for lining up a new fishing partner. Aaron Wiegel, Joe's normal fishing partner's time is limited. Thomas Joseph Rausenberger was born April 21. I am sure that dad has a few trips planned for the new little guy, along with his sisters.

Check out the Flatlanders website. Most of the updates are done and we have current information on the site along with some new photos galleries. If you have any ideas for the website contact me.

Let's discuss the meeting nights for both the general membership and the executive board. Some members leave for a three day weekend of fishing and may miss the Thursday night meetings. This year we have a conflict with the June and October outings. That conflict was missed last fall when we set the schedule. The outings could be changed to include Monday rather than Friday. We need your input.

Some of us fish mid-week and avoid the crowds. Everyone is welcome to join us. Let me know if you want to be on the e-mail list for the day and location each week. The days and location vary depending on what lakes are hot, weather, moon phase, and the wife's schedule (you have to keep mama happy). Also, a number of us are meeting at Busters for supper before the meeting – come a little early and join us. We have some great outings coming up- let's go fishing!

Get on the water and get on the board!

Think about July

*By Steve Ruhmann
Release chairman*

These warming temperatures have me thinking about our Lake of the Woods trip in July. If you haven't ordered your RABC (Remote Access Border Crossing) pass and your license, I strongly suggest you do to ensure that you have it in plenty of time before the trip. Also make sure your passport is current. One thing we would like to do this year is have every person going on the trip leave a contact phone number of someone at home in case of emergency. We all go with the intention of having nothing happen but accidents do take place. Also, we are getting ready to order T-shirts. These will be long sleeve and have our Logo on the front, LOTW 2016 down the sleeve and a new picture on the back that says Muskie Muscle. Cost is \$15 each. If you are interested, I will need to know your size. So please provide your contact numbers and shirt size to me. You can email steve.ruhmann@gmail.com So get out and catch a few before the trip and be ready for a great time.

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
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- 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
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- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

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A photograph of a man wearing a cap and sunglasses, holding a large fish (likely a muskie) in a body of water. The background shows a forested shoreline.

LOVESPARKMOTORSPORTS.COM
LOVES PARK MOTORSPORTS
DAVE JACK
(815) 636-7636
FAX: (815) 633-2746
9902 N. SECOND ST. MACHESNEY PARK, IL 61115

A large, stylized logo for Loves Park Motorsports, featuring the letters 'LP' in a dark, metallic font. To the right of the logo are logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, Ski-Doo, and Arctic Cat.

can-am
SEA-DOO
ski-doo
ARCTIC CAT

ACEBAITS
www.ACETANDEM.com
612-210-6312

An advertisement for Acebaits. It features a fishing lure with a spinner and a yellow lure, a fishing hook, and a large fish (likely a muskie) swimming in the water. The background is a light blue and white oval shape.

YAMAHA
EXPECT A LOT.™
SALES ~ SERVICE ~ PARTS
CRESTLINER ~ CROWNLINE
SYLVAN
EVEN KEEL MARINE INC.
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6621 W. State
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A black and white illustration of a Yamaha outboard motor.

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963-1105

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

A photograph of a white floating lodge on a lake. The lodge has a deck and is surrounded by water. In the background, there are trees and a forested shoreline.

Michael Starratt
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