



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

December 2015

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

Merry Christmas! Swap lures, eat food

Our meeting this month is Thursday, Dec. 17. Meeting highlights include our annual lure swap and potluck. We hope you read this newsletter early enough to buy a great lure for the swap. You can bring up to three **new** lures, at least \$15 in value each. Over the years, we've added some fun so that it's not a simple swap. There's strategy, trickery and theft involved. It's all in good fun and we hope that if you've never joined us for this party before, or if it's been awhile since you attended, that you'll make this meeting.

You can bring food to share. Chicken and pizza are staples as are chocolate chip cookies and brownies.

Notes from the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

After the elections at the November meeting, I have been making lists of ideas for the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskie Inc. The first item on the list has to be ... thank you, Jeff Blanck and Dave Jack for your many years of dedication, service and leadership to the club.

Because of their commitment to the club, we have a great group of folks that still like to get out and fish together. Anyone who has been on outings, especially Lake of the Woods, knows how much of a difference the group can make for a great trip. I hope, in the future, all us in some manner can add something to our chapter.

Right behind Jeff and Dave, we have to thank all the other members on the Executive Committee who have held office for many years and their willingness to stay in those positions to move the club forward. When I first joined the club a few years back, I was impressed with the group's effort to share information and try to include everyone in the fun. Moving forward, we will continue that focus and make this a stronger chapter.

With a change in leadership, there will be strong respect for the history and traditions that we have built over the years. As a group, we also owe it to ourselves to make some changes for future.

I would like to invite everyone to all of the Executive Committee meetings, especially the Jan. 7 meeting. All EC meetings are at 7 p.m. at the VFW, the first Thursday of the month. During the January meeting, we will

further develop a list of ideas and set priorities to drive the club forward. I have a strong agreement in the old saying "The smallest actions are better than the best intentions." If all of us take on one small item we can build our chapter.

We need to discuss and move on workable size items and get them completed.

I hope to move the club in the established direction of: having fun with minimal work and build a stronger Flatlanders Chapter. I invite all members to get involved with the group and catch more fish!

Fish still being caught

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Well the El Nino has held to form and there are still a few diehard Flatlanders out chasing ole' Esox. Jeremy Ven Huizen was on Carlton and banded a 38.5-incher. Jerry and Becky Oestreich were out on Deer doing that jiggy thing with Jerry releasing fish of 32, 33, and 43 inches. Becky added to her women's division leading totals by catching fish of 39 and 41.5.

Travis Brady was up on his favorite up north lake, Oxbox, and released a 41-incher. In November, Mike Kruger popped a fat 44-incher and then on consecutive weekends, Mike boated fish measuring 41 and 35 inches from Pewaukee. I was on Monona and released a 36.5-incher.

We finish this month's write up with Men's Masters 400 leader Mark "Doc" Carlson. Mark was up on the St. Lawrence where he trolled up fish of 36, 36, 38, 40, 38, 51, 47, 38, 36, 49, 48, 36, 36, 51, 42, 50, 45, 36, 44, 40, 49, 30, 30, 42, 53, and 42. That was an outstanding November!! Congrats to Mark.

The cooler weather makes it a bit tough to move around but if you are willing to fight through the elements, you can sometimes be rewarded.

So, please remember, if you still have forms to turn in, please send them to:

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080



Message from the outgoing president

By Jeff Blanck
Past president

I joined the Flatlanders Chapter in 1990 at the Flatlander booth of the Rockford Boat Show where long-time members Jack and Mary Lou Pertz signed me up. At that time the show was being held at the Metro Centre. A lot has happened since that boat show and most of it has been some of the best times of my life. The "musky bug" bit me and my brother hard in the late '70s and it is going strong today for me. I credit the people I have met in the club and at the club events for much of the musky fishing knowledge I have. There have been some great fishermen and women pass through the club over the years, some as members

and some from invitations to our meetings, that have shared time and information with many of us. I have tried to absorb as much as possible and it has been great. I became vice-president of the club in 1993 and president just a couple years after that. The club gave me the opportunity to meet people that have become some of my closest friends to this day. I thank you all for the memories and friendships I have. With all that said, I have decided to step down as president but continue to participate and share the benefits of the club with you all. One of the newer friends I (we) have in the club has stepped up to run the boat, so to speak. Our new president, Dick Cholke, joined just a couple years ago and quickly become an active member. I first met him at a meeting and he attended one of the Deer lake outings where he caught his first 40-inch musky. He has been highly active ever since. I hope you all join me in supporting him during his time of leadership, I know he will do a good job for our club. Good luck Dick and I'll see you at the meetings.

July can't come soon enough

Hello Flatlanders, this is a reminder we are collecting the \$100 deposits for the annual Lake of the Woods trip. The total cost again this year is \$365. Our 2016 dates at the Bay Store Camp are July 16–July 23. We have openings for 20 people again this year. We now are able to open the trip up to the general membership. Deposits should be to me by no later than the December meeting. So sign up now and get your spot reserved. This will be our 13th year going up there as a group It is a great time for catching fish on "The Woods" and the comradery is top notch. You can bring your deposits to the meeting or send them to Steve Ruhmann.

Call for photos

We need your photos for the presentation at the March 19 awards banquet. Fish photos, scenic shots and embarrassing photos of your partner make are all good. Send all photos to: **Dick Cholke** cholke@mchsi.com
Send your photos ASAP. It takes a while to get the presentation organized.

January meeting

We'll have breakfast at Cracker Barrel before heading to the Chicago Musky Show on Jan. 9. The Chicago show again will be at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, across the street from Cabela's. Gather for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and talk about all the stuff on your shopping list. It should only take about 45 minutes to get to the Sears Centre from Cracker Barrel.

Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

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

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Vice President	
Lee Bach	815-494-7258
Treasurer	
Jack Pertz	815-629-2562
Secretary	
Wally Haas	815-262-4891
Chapter representative	
Jack Pertz	815-629-2562
Members Only Contest	
Steve Ruhmann	815-558-3666
Membership	
Dick Cholke	815-222-1062
Merchandise	
Wally Haas	815-262-4891
Newsletter Editor	
Wally Haas	815-262-4891
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Pierce Lake Project	
Jeff Blanck	815-703-9365
Programs	
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Web site:

www.flatlanderschapter.com

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 A man wearing a cap and sunglasses is holding a large fish (likely a muskie) vertically. The background shows a lake and trees.

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 Logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, and Arctic Cat are displayed on the right side of the advertisement.

ACEBAITS

 An illustration of various fishing lures (jugs and spoons) and a large fish (likely a muskie) is shown. The background is a light blue oval.
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 A Yamaha outboard motor is shown on the left side of the advertisement.

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 A large, white floating lodge with a deck and railing is shown on a lake. There are other smaller boats nearby.

Michael Starratt
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