



# FLATLANDERS

## TAILS

December 2016

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

## Double the pleasure and other big fish stories

*By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of my fellow Flatlanders. The season is winding down rapidly and we still have a few diehards out there chasing the beast. We will start this month's update with Stu Adrian. Stu was out on Twin Valley and popped a 36-incher. Wally Haas was also over on Twin Valley where first thing in the morning he stuck a 41-incher. Jeremy VenHuizen made the trip to Lake St. Clair and pounded out a 48½ inch. I have been patrolling the waters of Wingra and got a 40½-inch lunge. That leads us to our last fish reported. Wally Haas and I were on Wingra and we ran into a past member, Mark Thiessen. Mark had just put his buddy on three fish while we were still fishless. After drifting with Mark in the middle of the lake getting caught up with him and his adventures, we headed over to the holes. As soon as we got to a spot that was nicknamed "Wolf Pack Point", Wally's rod went off. He set the hook and I saw a really nice fish swim by. After a brief struggle, we had the fish in the bag, a really healthy 45-incher.

This fish happens to be Wally's biggest Wisconsin fish and his biggest on a sucker. Well, while I was unhooking his fish, I noticed about 10 feet away our bobber was swimming under the water towards the shore. I knew we weren't moving because it was flat calm and the electric anchor was on. So we unhooked the 45-incher and left her in the net, cleared the lines and chased down the fish. She headed toward the middle of the lake, but probably was only 25 feet away. Our plan was to put her in the bag with the first girl. So I set the hook and fought her to the net. As soon as she got to the net, Wally ready to bag her, she made a quick 180 but got the hook caught on the outside of the net and thrashing like mad. Not good! After checking things over, I did the only thing possible. I lifted on the side the hook wasn't and flipped her in the bag with the other fish. After getting her unhooked and measured at 38 inches, we headed over to another boat for a picture. It was Steve Reinstra of the Capital City Chapter and his buddy Tom. They graciously snapped a bunch of pictures. I felt like I was in one of those Austin Powers photo shoots. What a great way to end the season!



*Wally and Steve with their Lake Wingra catches.*

Thank you Wally for getting out there and giving it on last go and thanks to Steve and Tom for capturing our double. Truly a day to remember. So if you have any fish to report, please send your release forms postmarked by 12/31/16 to:

**Steve Ruhmann**  
**14728 Whispering Wind Way**  
**South Beloit, Illinois**  
**61080**

### Notes from the bow of the boat

*Dick Cholke*

*Flatlanders president*

It is that time of year again- so let's make our list.

**Give thanks:** The old boat is still running, we had safe fishing trips, we only had to get the prop reworked twice this last season and we added a new notch to the skeg. If you did not add the new notch to the skeg – we all hope you get out more next year. Thank all the board members for their efforts and time in 2016 and 2017.

**Buy a lure to swap:** Thursday night, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. (This is a week early) is our annual Christmas party and lure swap. Bring a new muskie fishing related item worth at least \$15, wrapped, to the meeting to get into the drawing and a chance to steal a better wrapped

gift from your fishing partners. If you would like to sign your gift "from Freddie Flatlander" (your name) then it would be fun to hear about the big fish you helped get into the net. Bring a snack or your favorite bait (sardines and crackers) to the meeting and let's celebrate a good 2016 season and make plans for next year.

**Vote:** we are proposing changing the meeting night. This is still open for discussion but we are recommending the third Tuesday of the month. The Thursday night meetings have conflicted with outings and guys leaving early for weekend trips.

**Bring your Lake of the Woods Deposit:** We need to get our deposits in at Bay Store Camp (\$100). Rumors have it that we are going to have a larger than normal group this year. If you don't have a partner, come to the meeting and hopefully we can get one arranged.

**Mark your calendar:** We are heading into the Chicago Muskie Expo, Saturday, Jan. 7. The traditional breakfast at Cracker Barrel will start the day off at 7:00 a.m.

**Schedule the Gil Hamm Muskie Inc Chapter Challenge:** We will be heading up to Lake of the Woods Aug. 23 – 25, 2017, Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods ON. We will actually fish Saturday and return on Saturday Aug. 19 – 26. We will be settings up our accommodations next year. This has been a great time and we would like to enter at least two teams. Everyone is welcome.

**Send Photos:** We need photos of the 2016 season. Fish photos along with the embarrassing shots of your partner help make a better presentation for the year-end review scheduled for the February meeting and the March Banquet. Send them to Dick Cholke - email cholke@mchsi.com.

**Get the boat in for service:** Be ready for the 2017 season. You don't catch fish with the boat in storage.

**Bring your trophy to the meeting:** Looking forward, we need to get the trophies ready for the next banquet.

**Call your buddies and fish:** If we get a warm day with open water somewhere, we can still get out and fish!

**Enjoy the holidays:** We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and 50"ers for all in the 2017 season.

## Muskies in Olson Lake

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocked 47 10.75-inch muskies into Olson Lake in Rock Cut State Park in August. It was the first stocking of Olson by the DNR. Olson Lake is only 50 acres so that would be almost a fish an acre if they all survive. It will be awhile before any of those fish are big enough to catch. The DNR stocked 164 10.75-inchers into Pierce Lake, which is 160 acres.

At total of 21,543 muskies, produced at the Jake Wolf hatchery, were stocked into 30 bodies of water.

## Support Muskies Inc., buy a calendar

On the back of this month's Muskies magazine is a form for the 2017 calendar. Proceeds go to research and to improve fisheries. Help our and order a calendar.

## Show season is coming up

Here is the schedule for musky/fishing shows that have been popular among Flatlanders in recent years. If there's a show that should be on this list for an upcoming newsletter, let me know.

**Jan. 6-8:** Chicago Musky Expo, Pheasant Run Resort (new location), 4051 East Main St., St. Charles, IL.

**Jan 26-29:** Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo, Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 Thoreau Dr N, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

**Feb. 10-12:** Milwaukee Musky Expo, Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI.

**Feb. 17-19:** Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show, Indoor Sports Center.

**Feb 23-26:** Wisconsin Fishing Expo, Alliant Energy Center Expo Hall, Madison, WI.

## 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

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### Vice President

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Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

### Secretary

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

### Regional Vice President

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Steve Ruhmann 815-389-4622

### Membership

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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 shoreline with trees.

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  
ENJOY OUR PASSION

**ACEBAITS**  
[www.ACETANDEM.com](http://www.ACETANDEM.com)  
612-210-6312

An advertisement for Acebaits. It features a central image of a fishing lure with a spinner and a hook. To the right is a detailed illustration of a muskie fish. The background is white with a light blue border.

**YAMAHA**  
EXPECT A LOT.™  
SALES ~ SERVICE ~ PARTS  
CRESTLINER ~ CROWNLINE  
SYLVAN  
**EVEN KEEL MARINE INC.**  
*Even Better Than You Think*  
6621 W. State  
Rockford, IL

A detailed illustration of a Yamaha outboard motor, showing the upper and lower units, the propeller, and the mounting bracket.

**Tuffy**  
Wisconsin's Best

**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 with a dark blue cabin, situated on a calm lake. The background shows a forested shoreline under a clear sky.

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