



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

February 2016

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

What worked for Flatlanders in 2015?

Lots of stuff going on this month, but don't take my word for it. Let's start with the monthly message from our president.

From the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

Usually, we think this is the slow time of year for a fishing club. Yes, we are not on the water but the Executive Committee has been busy. Both the January and February EC meetings' agendas have been extremely full and we have moved through a lot of items. I would like to thank all the EC members for attending those meetings and getting things accomplished. Remember, any member is welcome to join us at the EC meeting and help shape the future of our chapter. EC meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month. Here are some of the things we have been working on:

The next General Meeting: Feb. 25

This will be our review of the 2015 season. The latest count was 97 slides of photos of big fish with a Flatlander nearby, analysis of the data from the national data base, and just some fun stuff. There were a number of shifts in our fishing patterns last year. Attend the meeting to learn what worked last year and things you need to try in 2016.

The Banquet: March 19

This is always a fun night, with trophy presentations, good food, maybe a soda, and a few fish stories. This is a good time to start the plans for this year's fishing season. Some of us may even have fishing reports on some early Illinois lakes. Contact Jack Pertz for tickets etc. (Banquet flier is attached as well.)

We have a good number of nice raffles, silent auction, and door prizes lined up. We have added prints by Garrett Shipman to the mix. If you have ever read "Musky Hunter" magazine, you have seen his work on the front cover.

Website update

The Flatlanders website is in the process of getting a facelift. We had the website training with Outdoor Network last week. We have made many changes and there will be more to come. If you see things that would



The annual Lake of the Woods trip is five months away. Here's betting this eagle will be waiting for us.

help make the website better, please contact Steve Ruhmann, Wally Haas, or me. Unfortunately, we had to retire the photo of Jeff sleeping with the Bull Dawg on the home page.

Updated rules

We have also completed many items that make the club run smoothly but do not make exciting press.

The Members Only Contest Rules have been updated, Muskie Inc. charter forms signed, setting up trip accommodations, etc. We do have a few new ideas starting soon. You will see some of those at the next meeting.

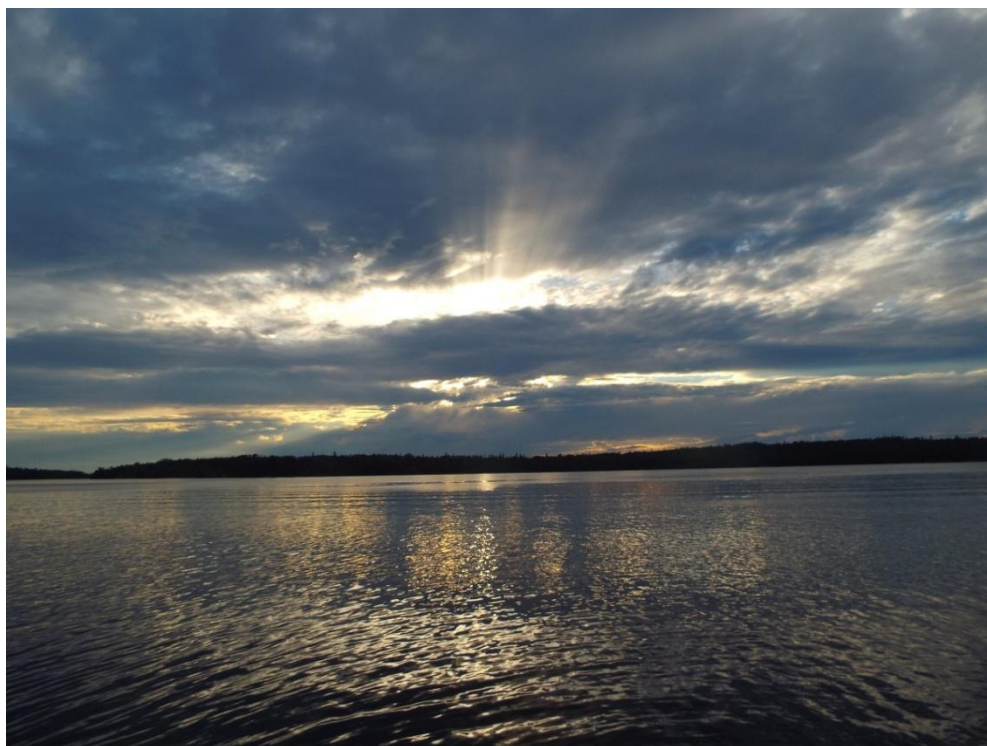
Meet and eat

Some of us meet for supper before each meeting at Buster's Bar and Grill. It is located on the back side of the parking lot. Everyone is welcome to join us and swap a few fish stories.

This is a good way to help our new members get to know us.

Remember, Illinois rivers still have open water and there is a serious need to relocate some of those muskies at least a few feet for their health and help us get rid of the cabin fever.

Be safe and get on the board!



There's nothing quite like the big sky on Lake of the Woods.

Happy birthday, Muskies, Inc.

On behalf of Muskies, Inc.'s 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet Committee, I would like to invite you and all the members of your chapter to the 50th Anniversary Banquet held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the Minneapolis Sheraton West Hotel. It promises to be a great evening with lots of camaraderie, fun, celebration, and games, Muskies, Inc. members from around the country will be there celebrating with you.

In order to let your members know, if you could please include the attached graphic on your website with a link to www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org/node/203 we would greatly appreciate it.

The Celebration Banquet is being held in conjunction with the Hugh C. Becker Muskellunge Symposium scheduled for March 13-15. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and members of your chapter at the 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Saturday, March 12.

Denise Olson

Muskies, Inc.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Banquet Committee, 612-804-4687

Check the attachments

Attached are fliers from Rock Valley Anglers and the Capitol City Chapter of Muskies Inc. We thought some of you might be interested in attending these events.

Outings reminder

April 30: Story and McMaster Lakes

(McMaster is also known as Snake Den Hollow)

May 21, 22: Madison Chain

June 24, 25, 26: Squaw, Squirrel, Booth and Buckhorn

July 16-23: Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp

Sept. 16-18: North Twin

Oct. 28-30: Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

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

Dick Cholke 815-222-1062

Vice President

Lee Bach 815-494-7258

Treasurer

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

Secretary

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

Regional Vice President

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

Members Only Contest

Steve Ruhmann 815-389-4622

Membership

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Merchandise

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Programs

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Website

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Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

Web site:

www.flatlanderschapter.com

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

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

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

ACEBAITS

 Illustrations of various fishing lures (jugs and spoons) and a fish (likely a muskie) are shown.
www.ACETANDEM.com
 612-210-6312

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 A drawing of a Yamaha outboard motor is shown on the left.

Tuffy
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963-1105

 An outline of the state of Wisconsin is shown with the name 'Tuffy' written across it.

LAC SEUL FLOATING LODGES
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 PROVIDING OUR GUESTS WITH AN ENJOYABLE
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 A photograph of a large, white floating lodge with a deck and railing, situated on a lake with trees in the background.

Michael Starratt
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