



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

February 2015

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

The 2014 fishing report: How did we do?

Dick Cholke has become the master of collecting musky fishing data. Dick has prepared a 100-slide show to present to members during our meeting Feb. 26. Dick's presentation will focus on what was caught, when it was caught and where it was caught. Of course there will be pictures of big fish, but there will be tons of data. What was the hot lure? The hot lake? The hot color? You'll find out that and more at this month's meeting. Dick also has information from the Wisconsin DNR and the Illinois creel survey to share. It's a bunch of information that Flatlanders can use to prepare for their 2015 fishing excursions. Dick also has promised a few surprises in his presentation, which makes this a can't-miss meeting.

Photos needed

Dick Cholke is putting together a slide show for the banquet and is in charge of our photo contest. You can still get a photo in for the banquet if you send it to Dick ASAP, Please send photos to cholke@mchsi.com.

VFW serves food

You might want to show up early and grab a bite to eat before you settle in to hear Dick Cholke's presentation. The VFW serves food until 7 p.m. Attached is a menu. The VFW has been very good to us over the years. Spending a couple of bucks with them would be a nice way to show our appreciation.

Thank you Steve Heiting

Steve Heiting, managing editor of Musky Hunter magazine, gave the Flatlanders a plug during each of the two seminars he presented during the 44th Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show at the Indoor Sports Center last weekend. You might remember Steve was our guest speaker at a meeting in March of 2012. Steve's seminars last weekend, of course, were great, but his pitch for the club was much appreciated. Steve's penultimate slide was of a flier put together by Dick Cholke. I sent a version of that flier last week. It included pictures of the big fish our members have caught. Thanks to Dick for asking Steve to let non-Flatlanders know about us and thanks to Steve for helping us out.



Jeff Gayhart shows off the replica of the 56-inch fish he caught at Lac Seul in 2013. He picked it up during the Milwaukee Muskie Expo from Fittante. Jack Pertz was his netman for this huge fish. Congratulations on a great fish and a beautiful mount to hang on the wall.

Banquet deadline near

Our annual awards banquet will be Saturday, March 14 at the VFW. We need to know how many of you will attend so we can order enough food. Banquet flier is after the ads. Please contact Jack Pertz no later than March 1

Trailer decal update

The Minnesota Natural Resources Department has postponed the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program. That program would have made it necessary for you to take an online test and get a decal for your boat even if you were just driving through Minnesota. That would have affected all of us who make trips to Canada. The Minnesota Legislature is considering changes to the law. When we find out more, we'll let you know. Or you can check for yourself by going to www.trailers.mndnr.gov

Projector found

The projector we've used for presentations has been found. Last month I asked if anyone had a projector we could borrow. We're good now. Thanks to those of you who volunteered to help.

Want to go to school?

The annual Madison Muskie School is the same day as our banquet, but you might be able to catch the stuff you want at the school and still make it back to Rockford in time to eat, drink and party with the rest of us. Go to <http://ow.ly/JxG6d> if you're interested.

Interested in tournaments?

The 2015 Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail's first tournament will be March 14-15 on Kinkaid Lake. Tournament co-hosts are using their share of the proceeds to improve Illinois' musky fishery. I've attached the February IMTT newsletter if you want to know more. (Yes, I know I have a lot of attachments this month.)

A few changes on the EC

Dick Cholke, besides being a master of data, has taken over as membership chairman. You saw part of his work with the flier handed out during the Rockford Fishing Show. We think we'll see a few new faces Thursday because of his efforts last weekend. Steve Ruhmann will take over the Members Only Contest so once you start catching big fish, send the info to Steve.

Standings appear after the ads

Jeremy Venhuizen, one of our newer members, was the winner of the Men's Division in the Members Only Contest with 16 fish for 193 points. Jerry Oestreich caught 21 fish for 301 points to win the Men's Masters. Mark Carlson continues his domination of the Men's Masters 400 with more fish than I can count and 511 points. Mary Hoernecke is the Women's Masters winner with five fish and 87 points while Becky Oestreich caught two fish for 27 points to win the Women's Division. Tammie Lester was the only other woman to register a fish. She caught a 36-incher. Ben Wilary is the winner of the Junior Division with seven fish and 63 points. Congratulations to all on a great 2014.

Vote for Mark Carlson's musky

Let's put a musky on top of the fishing world. Mark Carlson's world-record IGFA musky is up for catch of the year for 2014. He was in second place the last time I checked behind some tuna. Do you really want something you eat out of a can to beat a musky? You can vote daily in February. Just search "IGFA contest", click it, go to Mark's picture, click. You'll have to register as a member with your email. They will send you a verification link which you click, then sign in, then vote. Takes about 3 minutes. Then just sign in daily and vote! **Update:** The tuna looks like it is unbeatable, but let's make sure Mark hangs on to second place. He was only about 40 votes ahead of a marlin when I put the finishing touches on this newsletter. As an added incentive, you could win a Yeti cooler, the kind Jim Saric promotes on The Musky Hunter television show. When you vote, your name is automatically entered in the contest for four Yeti products (big cooler, small cooler hopper, mug). The more you vote, the more chances you have to win.

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 815-703-9365

Vice President

Dave Jack 815-389-1132

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

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 A photograph of a man in a blue jacket and cap holding a large fish, likely a muskie, on a boat. 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
 www.ACETANDEM.com
 612-210-6312

 An illustration of fishing lures, including a spinner and a soft plastic lure, next to a drawing of a fish.

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 drawing of a Yamaha outboard motor.

Tuffy
 Wisconsin's Best
 963-1105

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

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

 A photograph of a large, white floating lodge on a lake with trees in the background.

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

Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc.
Annual Awards Banquet

You are invited to attend the Annual Awards Banquet of the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Please join us as we recognize the angling accomplishments of Chapter Members for the 2014 Angling season. Everyone is welcome to attend! And feel free to bring friends and family!

When: Saturday, March 14th Appetizers at 6:00 ~ Dinner at 6:30

Where: Loves Park VFW Hall, 2018 Windsor Rd, Loves Park, IL

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Dinner will be buffet style featuring baked chicken and spiraled ham. In addition to the awards presentation there will be silent auctions plus we will draw for the release contest 50/50 winner. And of course we will present the Skunk Award to a deserving member! Who will that be? Find out by attending the banquet!

Please confirm your attendance by mailing a check for the total amount and made payable to the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc. to...

Jack Pertz
15955 Cannell Rd
Rockton IL 61072

Please respond no later than March 1st. Also, please include a list of names of all those attending in your party. Hope to see you there!!

If you have any questions please contact Jack at 815-629-2562 or e-mail at putembackjack2@aol.com.

MENS DIVISION

- 1) Jeremy Venhuizen - 34.5, 35.25, 43.5, 37, 41.0, 30, 39.75, 39, 33, 31.5, 41, 40, 36.5, 39.5, 38.5, 35.5= 193 pts
- 2) Jack Pertz - 37, 38, 36, 37, 37, 45, 49.5, 36, 36, 37, 39, 33 = 149 pts
- 3) Dick Estes - 38, 40, 35, 45.5, 38, 42, 43, 40, 36, 33 = 131 Pts
- 4) Frank Wilary - 35, 39, 30, 32.5, 40, 37.5, 30, 39, 39, 43, 38, 37 = 129 pts
- 5) Tim Scruggs - 31, 31.5, 33.5, 38, 39.5, 52.5, 45, 40 = 107 pts
- 7) Stu Adrian - 36, 47, 47, 34.5, 36, 42, 37 = 98 Pts
- 6) Dick Cholke - 41.5, 36, 37, 40.5 43, 30.5, 37, 31, 33.5 = 97 pts
- 8) Greg Lehmann - 34.75, 35.25, 37.5 32.75, 32, 38.75, 36.5, 32.25, 38.25 = 85pts
- 9)Harvey Gustafson - 38, 42, 43, 46, = 65 pts
- 10) Travis Brady - 33, 31, 39, 32.25, 36 = 41 pts
- 11) Mike Kruger - 33, 34, 35.5, 40 = 39 pts
- 12) Brock Jack - 43, 31, 41.5 = 38 pts
- 13) Doug Simonson - 42, 35, = 25 Pts
- 14) Jerry Larson - 34, 38.5 = 21 Pts
- 15) Kevin Bunch - 35, 31, = 14 pts
- 16) Jamie Bowman - 30, 35, = 13 pts
- 17) Brandon Simonson 36, = 10 pts
- 18) Bob Cholke - 35 = pts
- 18) Frank Bunch - 33 = 7 Pts

TOTAL FISH MENS DIVISION 116

MENS MASTERS

- 1) **Jerry Oestreich** - 40, 37.5, 34.5, 33.5, 48, 36.5, 41.5, 45.5, 40.5, 41, 51, 36, 34, 48, 43.25, 41.5, 43, 38.25, 42, 32, 46.5 = 301 pts
- 2) Dave Jack - 38, 38, 31.5, 40.5, 44, 47, 39, 45, 46, 52, 37.5= 174 pts
- 3) Wally Haas - 46, 46, 39, 35.5, 47.5, 39.5, 36, 36.5, 37 = 131pts
- 4) Mike Bowers - 30.5, 38.5, 42.25, 45, 36.5, 42 = 61 pts
- 5) Richard Alton - 32, 39.5, 42.5, 36, = 47 pts
- 6) Craig Born - 37, 49.5 = 35 pts
- 7) Jeff Blanck - 33, 37, 38.5, 35, 40 = 54 pts

TOTAL FISH MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION 58

MENS MASTERS 400

- 1) Mark Carlson - 42.5, 35, 38.5, 43, 40, 43, 52, 47, 44, 41.5, 34, 46, 57, 45, 44, 54, 40, 36, 40, 42, 52.5, 53, 47, 46, 32, 45, 47, 50 = 511 pts
- 2) Steve Ruhmann - 33.5, 32, 37, 39, 51.5, 35.5, 35, 41 = 98 pts
- 3) Russ Hoernecke - 42, 43, 44, 40, 43.5, 48 = 73pts
- 4) Duane Nichols - 47 = 21 pts

TOTAL FISH MEN'S MASTERS 400 DIVISION 43

WOMENS MASTERS

- 1) Mary Hoernecke - 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, = 87 pts

TOTAL FISH WOMAN'S MASTERS DIVISION 5

WOMENS

- 1) Becky Oestreich - 35, 44, = 27 pts
- 2) Tammie Lester - 36 = 10 pts

TOTAL FISH WOMAN'S DIVISION 3

JUNIORS

- 1) Ben Wilary - 33, 30, 30.5, 39, 43.5, 30, 37.5 = 63 pts
- 2) Collin Bowman - 46.5, 41, 36 = 46 pts