



# FLATLANDERS

# TAILS

July 2015

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

## Cholke's big fish highlights LOTW outing

Dick Cholke caught the biggest fish of the just completed Lake of the Woods outing at Walsh's Bay Store Camp with a personal best 48-incher. It was Dick's first fish in three LOTW outings. He had been skunked in 2013 and 2014, but came through in a big way this year. There were 18 guys on the trip that ended last week and 60 muskies, a bunch of northern pike and a few smallmouth bass and walleyes were landed. Dave Jack and Jerry Oestreich each caught eight muskies to lead the group. Jerry and Stu Adrian (four fish) were the top team. On the other end of the scale, Jeff Blanck and Brian Hansas had zero muskies when the outing ended. Jeff and Brian didn't arrive in camp until July 14 and were staying until July 21. Brian caught a 48 and a 45 after the rest of us left. Jeff got on the board with a 39 and a 31.5. Lots of fish were seen, but it was hard to get them to commit. A couple of storms chased us off the water early. We had a fish fry Wednesday and the group came in at 3 p.m. to eat. Good thing. By the time we were done a big storm hit, keeping us off the water the rest of the day. We'll tell fish stories at Thursday's meeting. Please attend and join (or re-live) the fun. Thanks to Frank and Laura Walsh for their hospitality. They made a great trip better. Thank you.

### The Final count:

Brock Jack: 5 (46, 42.5, 35, 44.5, 38)  
Kyle Scruggs: 3 (31, 46, 37)  
Harvey Gustafson: 1 (41)  
Dereck Avery (Harvey's grandson): 1 (46, first musky)  
Stu Adrian: 4 (32, 36, 46.5, 31.5)  
Jerry Oestreich: 8 (32, 32, 33, 45, 36, 38.5, 41, 41)  
Wally Haas: 4 (33, 39.5, 39.5, 47)  
Dick Estes: 2 (46.6, 44; plus big pike: 41.5)  
Dave Jack: 8 (33.5, 41, 43, 44, 38, 36, 40.5, 34.5)  
Tim Scruggs: 1 (39.5)  
Mike Kruger: 4 (40, 37.5, 40, 40)  
Steve Ruhmann: 5 (40.5, 43, 32.5, 41, 34.5)  
Jack Pertz: 5 (33, 45, 30, 32, 46)  
Dick Cholke: 2 (48, 39.5)  
Jeremy Venhuizen: 5 (37.5, 39, 31.5, 36.5, 38)  
Scott Schirmer: 2 (34, 31)



*Dick Cholke shows off his 48-inch musky (above) and accepts the Jerry Lewis Memorial Trophy for biggest fish caught during the outing from Tim Scruggs, last year's big fish champ.*

### Still up there

Jack Pertz, Gene Seuring, Duane Nichols and Ted Ustich were at the Bay Store Camp as of this writing. The report so far: Ted had a 49 and a 46. Jack caught a 32 and a 45. They'll be fishing all week so expect more big ones to be caught.



### The team shot

The lesson here is to not take a picture when the guys are in the shade. Let's make sure next year's picture is taken on the dock so we can see everyone's smiling face.

### Send in your fish

Undoubtedly more of you have been fishing than what's been written about above. Scott Grabow and a few others were also on Lake of the Woods last week, but I don't have a report on how they did. Remember, Steve Ruhmann is this year's release chairman, so catch a fish and send your forms within 30 days to: Steve Ruhmann, 14728 Whispering Wind Way, South Beloit, Illinois, 61080

### RIP Dean Rahn

Dean Michael Rahn, 56, of Rockford ended his courageous battle against ALS on Friday, June 26, 2015. Born in Rockford on August 31, 1958. Dean was a skilled carpenter and craftsman, an avid Muskie fisherman, excellent cook, and passionate vegetable gardener. He spent his last months well cared for in his sister's home, surrounded by family, friends, and dogs and cats he loved as his own. During this



time, Dean had many happy and silly moments with his loud infectious laugh often filling the home. Dean would want all of us to remember him as his best self, either out fishing on his prized boat, manning his stove or grill, or tending to all those tomato plants. We can all take comfort knowing his suffering is over and he now has the peace he deserved.

Survivors include his mother, Jean

Burdick; stepfathers, Larry Burdick, Derek Langworthy; sisters, Deborah Stannard, Jennifer Langworthy; brother, Russell Rahn; brothers-in-law, Dave Sandberg, Dave Lash; nieces, Beth Stannard, Cecilia Rahn, and Susan Rahn. Predeceased by his dog, Zeus; father, Fred Rahn; brother, Steven Rahn; and niece, Meghan Rahn. A celebration of life will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 2015 in Honquest Family Funeral Homes with Crematory - Mulford Chapel, 4311 N. Mulford Road, Loves Park. A visitation will be held from 3:30 p.m. until service time Saturday. Please feel free to share your own stories, pictures, and thoughts for Dean, his loved ones, and each other on this site. They will bring comfort to us all. Memorials can be made to Northern Illinois hospice and grief center, 4215 Newburg Rd. Rockford, Illinois 61108.

*(Thank you to Honquest Family Funeral Home s and Dean's family for allowing us to republish his obituary here.)*

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

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Logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, and Arctic Cat. The Sea-Doo logo includes the text "DRP". Below the logos is the slogan "SHARE OUR PASSION".

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An illustration of fishing lures, including a spinner and a soft plastic lure, next to a drawing of a fish. A fishing hook is also depicted.

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A drawing of a Yamaha outboard motor.

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

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A photograph of a white floating lodge on a lake. The lodge has a deck and is surrounded by water and trees in the background.

Michael Starratt

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