



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

January 2016

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

Let's make musky fishing sweet in '16

Happy New Year. We won't have a general membership meeting this month. The Jan. 10 breakfast at Cracker Barrel was our meeting and it was the best turnout we've had. There were 15 Flatlanders who kept the waiters and waitresses busy as we chowed down food and told fish stories. We plan to do it again next year and hope more of you decide to join us.

The Chicago Musky Expo is switching venues again. Next year's show will be at Pheasant Run in St. Charles.

Next on the fishing show list is the Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo Jan. 28-31 at the Schaumburg Convention Center. The best day to go to that show is Friday, the Musky Madness Day with Jim Saric and Joe Bucher among the seminar speakers.

The Milwaukee Musky Expo is Feb. 12-14 and also has a new venue. It will be at Fair Park & Conference Center.

The Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show is Feb. 19-21 and the Madison Fishing Expo is Feb. 26-28.

Paperwork reminder

If you're going to Canada on our annual Lake of the Woods outing, you need to make sure your Outdoors Card hasn't expired besides getting a license. Don't forget your Remote Access Border Crossing permit. Might as well get all of that out of the way before the weather turns nice and you want to fish.

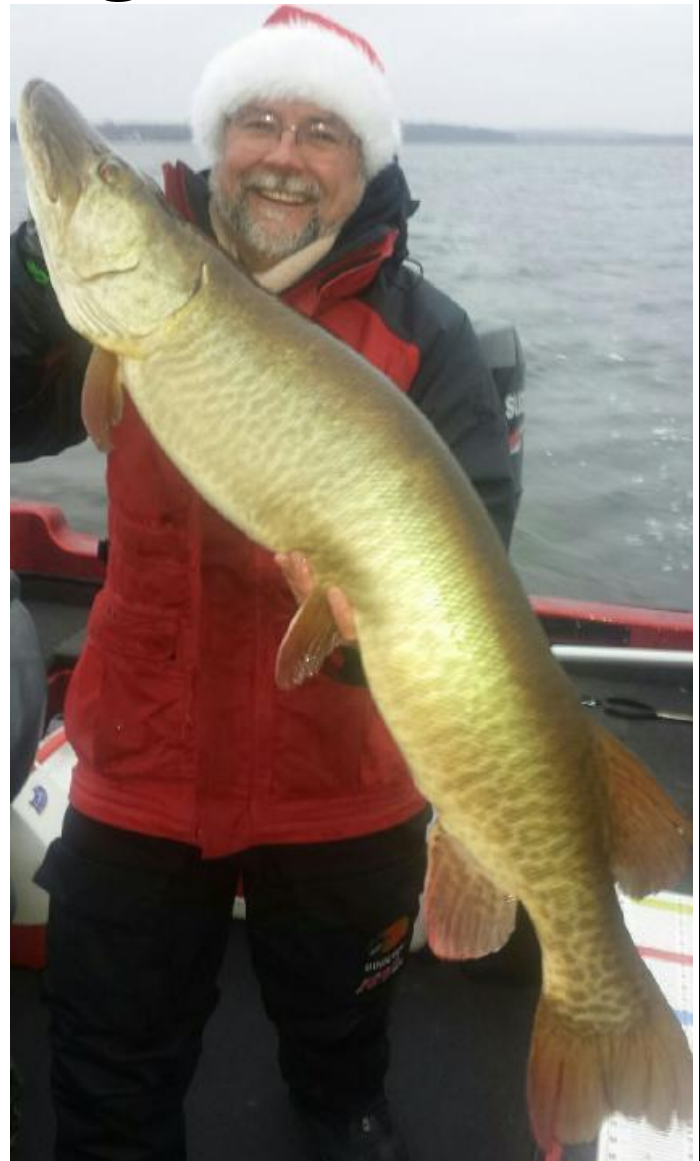
Speaking of LOTW

Howdy Flatlanders. We have filled up all the spaces for the 2016 Lake of the Woods trip. This should make for an outstanding trip. There are still a few of you that need to get me your deposits. Please send them to:

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080

Another reminder

Make sure your boat registration is up to date. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stopped sending out renewal notices in 2013. Registration of watercraft in Illinois is good for three years and expires June 30.



Steve Ruhmann caught this 48-incher, his personal best in Wisconsin, shortly before Christmas. Why can't Santa be that good to all of us?

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stopped sending renewal notices in 2013. The DNR is processing applications from September and the processing time is

10 to 12 weeks so the sooner you act the better.

Go to the DNR's website, dnr.illinois.gov, click on boating and go to the link "Please use Online Renewal if your boat is currently registered in your name." Follow the instructions from there.

Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Well our Muskie Season has come to a close and I would like to congratulate all the club members on their catch and release of the mighty *Esox Masquinongy*. We still had a few diehards out there who were rewarded for their efforts. Mark Carlson was out trolling up the beast and released fish measuring 51.5, 53.5, 34, 43, 38, 45, 46, 40, and 34 inches. The 53.5-incher weighed 50 pounds. I sure can't wait to see the pictures of that SLOB!!! New president Dick Cholke was out on Waubesa and stuck a chunky 38-incher. Greg Lehman went out one last time and knocked a couple of *Esox* targets out of the park. Greg, cranked up a 46-incher out of Lake Storey. This moved him into First Place in the Men's Division. It also scored him the Longest Illinois Release for 2015. Congratulations Greg. Our last fish entries for the year come from myself. I was out on the Madison Chain with good friend Brad Nelson of Madison and he put me on three great fish. These fish measured, 37, 41, and 48 inches. The 48-incher was a "bucket list" fish goal that I had set. It was a tremendous way to finish the season.

So now it is time to get that tackle out, sharpen/replace hooks, clean reels, and get the boat back in an organized fashion. It is also time to go to the shows, buy more lures, (we all need more lures) and listen to a seminar or two. In March we will have our awards banquet and I HIGHLY recommend that you come attend and support your fellow Flatlanders who will be receiving awards.

From the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

Hey what happened? We went from fishing to the end of December to walking around the Chicago Muskie Expo in less than two weeks. That's a tough transition. I guess we need to recalibrate and look forward to 2016 and some early fishing in Illinois. It is time to sharpen hooks, build a few baits and get the maintenance done on the boat.

There are a few events coming up that we should look forward to this year. Our February meeting will be the annual review of the previous year. The presentation will include interesting data and photos of some our 279 fish -- that is up from the last few years! March 19 is our annual award banquet. It should be a great time and we have a full complement of items ready for raffles, silent auctions and door prizes. Sign up early and have fun reminiscing the 2015 season. Our outing schedule begins in April with Story and McMasters Lakes near Galesburg, IL. Tentatively, the April general meeting will be our manufacturers night with efforts started to get a speaker for a full evening. Note, the Lake of the Woods outing is almost full and we are ready for some great fishing.

We have started the process of updating our website. We could use a few more folks with this project. If you are interested, please contact me. It is a good opportunity to learn some website development with training from Outdoor Network.

If you have been reading the latest issue of Muskie's Inc. you will notice five of our members are in the national standings. Congratulations to:

Mary Hoernecke: 12th place in the Women's Master Division

Becky Oestreich: 6th place in the Women's Division

Ben Wilary: 20th place in the Juniors Division and Juniors Top 25

Charles Heidt: 15th place Hybrid Top 25

Greg Lehmann: 23rd place Hybrid Top 25

Continued after the ad page

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

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 A man wearing a cap and sunglasses is holding a large fish (likely a muskie) in a body of water. The fish is long and slender with a patterned side.

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 A large, stylized logo for 'LOVES PARK MOTORSPORTS' where the letters 'L' and 'P' are connected. The word 'LOVES' is above 'PARK' and 'MOTORSPORTS' is below.

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ACEBAITS

 An illustration showing various fishing lures (jugs and spoons) and a large fish (likely a muskie) jumping out of the water.

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Jax probably had more fun at our annual Christmas meeting than anyone. He got the most-coveted item of the night after he "stole" it with the last ticket called. Former President Jeff Blanck will have sore shoulders and arms if he tries to cast that thing.



Get involved

(Continued from Page 2)

We invite any member to attend the Executive Committee meeting the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the VFW post. Gives us some new ideas and get involved.

It is still not too late to get your photos in for the review presentation. Send them to cholke@mchsi.com

If you are interested in some early fishing and we can find open water, join in – we are starting early this year!

And!

A few notes from Lee Tauchen's presentation:

Lee Tauchen takes out the two hooks and put one larger treble at the bump at the bottom of the 4" Phantom. He likes that bait.

He said that modification makes the bait work better - more like the larger Phantoms. The guys next to me also like that bait.

And Lee:

Likes smaller single bladed bucktails #8

Gets bigger fish on really slow topwater baits

Recommends changing up your retrieve at least three times on each cast

Finds muskies chase casted baits less starting at 45°F and below
Fishing deep is the next hot place to fish

Green Bay was on in September and he heard three days in November - the rest was really tough.

