



January 2019 newsletter

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# On with the shows!

It all starts Saturday (Friday, really) at Pheasant Run Resort

By **Dick Cholke**  
**Flatlanders president**

The off season is upon us and that means we need to get a few things done. This winter there are muskie shows, speakers, and the long lead items that need attention.

This week I sent in for a new passport – how is yours? Are you ready for Lake of the Woods? I was going to get up to speed on the ROAM app needed for our trip in July.

The smart phone ROAM app takes the place of the I-68 for crossing the border in remote locations. You may want to get that done early. Some of our group did it last summer and ran into some issues with the software. I do not know if it is any better now. I held off because I thought my passport number may change. The other big item that needs to be done soon – send Steve Ruhmann your Lake of the Woods deposit. It is due by the end of January.

Our annual trip to Canada should be another good week of fishing, big tails, and tall tales. You can drop off your deposit at breakfast on Saturday (Jan. 19) before we head into the Chicago Muskie Expo at the Pheasant Run Resort.

As in years past we will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Bring the extra bucks you won at the Christmas poker game and pick up on those lures that need to find a way back to your tackle box. Remember this is our January meeting. There is / was no meeting on Jan. 15.

It is also time to think about another week on LOTW. The Chapter Challenge is Aug. 17-24 based out of Red Wing Lodge. We will try to stay at Mylie's Place again. A number of folks

have expressed interest and team one may be set early. Let's take two teams up this year! These are six-person teams. If we can get the teams set and deposits in, we could possibly get the larger cabins reserved early. We welcome anglers of all level of experience. I did check the Capital City website and they have their annual trip to Mylie's the same week. It is always good to meet up with our neighbors and exchange information and stories.

The information finally came out about the Region Four Chapter Challenge this spring at Lake Kinkaid. See the attached flyer. It is just a weekend event on March 23 and 24. The format is the same as the August Chapter Challenge with six-angler teams. Let me know if you are interested. This may be something new to try early in the season. We fished Lake Kinkaid in the fall and found it to be a nice lake for an alternative trip to fishing up north early or late in the season. Note, this date is the same as our annual banquet.

I have started to work on the "2018 Flatlanders Year in Review." A good number of folks have not sent in any photos yet! **Please send those photos to cholke@mchsi.com.**

We caught some nice fish – let's show them off. If you have any good shots of your partner doing something crazy include those photos. We all need a little humor. This presentation will be shown at the February meeting.

The EC committee is already working on our annual awards banquet March 23 at Thunder Bay. Please consider making a donation for the raffles. Remember it does not have to be a

fishing- related item, just something that our members would like to take home after the banquet. This is basically our only fund raiser for the year. Next year we would like to bring in speakers and offer some new activities.

There are a number of other muskie related events coming up – here are a few:

**Feb. 8-9:** 48th Annual Rockford, IL Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show

Muskie presentations are:

**Saturday 1 p.m.:** Musky Tactics that Work Anywhere by Pete Maina

**Saturday 2:45 p.m:** Musky Panel Q&A - Ask the Pro's Anything! Includes Pete Maina, Spence Petros, Ranger Rick Krueger, Mike Caldarazzo, and Chris Taurisano

**Sunday 11 a.m:** Soft Plastics for More Muskies by Spence Petros

See the attached schedules and discount coupon.

**Milwaukee Muskie Expo Feb. 15-17** at the Washington Co. Fair Park and Conference Center

### **Capital City Muskie Inc. 18th Annual Intermediate & Advanced Muskie School**

**Saturday, March 23:** Waunakee High School <https://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/muskie-school/> A number of us will be attending again this year. We hope to see you up there for a very informative day with a big raffle at the end of the day. Note this is the same day as our banquet. The school does end mid- afternoon so that you could do both events that day.

In addition, here is our 2019 schedule for the Flatlander's events:

**Jan. 19:** Chicago Muskie Expo

**Feb. 18:** Flatlanders General Meeting – presentation of the “Flatlander’s 2018 Season Review”

**March 23:** Flatlanders Annual Banquet.

**April 16:** Flatlanders General Meeting.

**April 27:** Flatlanders Outing at Lake Storey and Lake McMaster.

**May 21:** Flatlanders General Meeting.

**May 18:** Flatlanders Outing at Lake Evergreen.

**June 18:** Flatlanders General Meeting - Prep for the Lake of the Woods Outing.

**July 12 – 20:** Flatlanders Outing at Lake of the Woods.

**Aug. 17-24:** Flatlanders Outing at the MI Chapter Challenge.

**Sept. 17:** Flatlanders General Meeting.

**Sept. 27, 28, 29:** Flatlanders Outing at the Bay of Green Bay.

**Oct. 15:** Flatlanders General Meeting.

**Oct. 18-20:** – Lake Alice.

**Nov. 19:** Flatlanders General Meeting – Elections.

**Dec. 17:** Flatlanders General Meeting – Christmas Party and Lure Swap

Remember! Your Lake of the Woods deposits are due!

Get on the water and get on the board

### **Out with the old ...**

*By Steve Ruhmann*

*Release chairman*

Well the 2018 Release Contest has come to a close. It was a good year for some and not so good others (myself included in the last group). The last fish reported come from Mark Carlson. Mark was out at the end of October and released Esox of 43, 45, 50, 45, 47, 30, 40, 56, 40, 45, 45, and 50 inches. That is one heck of a way to end the year !

For the year the club boated a total of 221 muskellunge. This was not our best year for totals but still a respectable number considering how tough the weather conditions were. Regardless, it was a fun year and a personal thank you to all who I shared the boat with and along with trips whether it was to distant locations or on our local waters. The friendships that have been made continue to be solidified through the year and will continue to grow for years to come.

### **... In with the new**

Here we are at the start of 2019 and the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Lake of the Woods Outing will be here before we know it. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the dates for this year's trip is July 13-20, lodging is \$400 total and the \$100 deposit is due to myself by 1/31/19. So please let me know if you are going and provide your deposit. Based on the feedback I have currently received, we still have plenty of room. So, please send your deposits to:

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