



No meeting this month or next; we'll be fishing. Next meeting is 7 p.m. Sept. 18

\*\*\*\*\*

# Fifty-fifty

Jack Pertz, Dean Stoehr score big during Lake St. Clair trip



*Dean Stoehr with the 50-incher he caught on Lake St. Clair fishing with Jack Pertz and Kevin Stenzel. Jack also put a 50 in the boat. Kevin, who had been Mr. Fifty on these trips, caught a 46.*

By **Dick Cholke**  
Flatlanders president

As we get ready for our big trip to LOTW, we pause for some time to be grateful that we had Mary Hoernecke as a member of the Flatlanders. Wally has written the article below, recognizing this wonderful person. The Flatlanders and I personally would like to extend our heart-felt

condolences to Russ and the family. Lake of the Woods – are you ready? This hot weather makes the preparation a little more work. We all wonder what weather is in store for us next week. Steve set the departure time at 6 a.m. from the Flying J – as Steve says



"Wheels Up" at 6 a.m. Wally will pass out the shirts before we hit the road so to be early is to be on time. The cost of the shirts is \$17, \$18 if you're extra muscular and need a XXL.

Get your CB mounted, tested, and go the barber to get some new jokes. As I stated in the last newsletter, I would like to see everyone at the lineup meeting on Saturday, the steak fry, and the awards on Friday night. Let's make sure we share the fun, stories, and patterns. This year we should try to get everyone on the board early and up the averages for the week. Actual locations are part of each team's milk run but sharing the type of structure gets everyone on the board. Last year we had no skunks – let's work together to make that a tradition. It will be good to have a few new faces in camp this year along with some guys we have not seen in a few years. I am sure we are in for another great week on one of the best muskie waters north of Lake Carlton.

I should probably put this in a big font!

**Reminder – there are no general meetings in the months of July and August!**

This summer make a point of getting someone new in your boat whether it be a fellow Flatlander or someone new to muskie fishing. Also waste a day and try a new lake. Last week I netted another trophy skunk on a new lake but the guy on the pier fishing gave me the scoop. He also showed me a photo of a big fish. It is enough to make me think about going back to the new lake.

Here is the schedule the remaining outings:

**July 14-21:** Lake of the Woods Ontario, Canada

**Sept. 29:** Swan Lake near Portage, WI

**Oct. 11-14:** Lake Namekagon with the Wormsoakers. (76 Rockford area anglers have reserved there spot on this outing)

### **Flatlanders to invade LOTW**

Hooks are sharp, boat is ready, and the anticipation is through the roof. This year's trip will be another one for the memory banks. For those who want to caravan up, we are "wheels up" at 6 a.m. Friday July 13. Don't forget your CB radios. For those who are getting in the pools (\$30 per person), I will be collecting the

money at the Walleye Inn. If you could PLEASE have the exact change, that will make things go a lot easier. For those not staying at the Walleye Inn, we can do it at the Friday night dinner or at Bay Store Camp when we arrive Saturday. Remember, we should try not to arrive before **1 p.m. Saturday**. To be fair to all parties involved, the official start time to report your first fish is at 3 p.m. Saturday and I would like to make the closing time at 8 p.m. Friday July 20. This will allow me to get all the pools organized and not have everyone sitting around too long while I do so. Obviously you can fish outside of these times. Well, that is all I can advise right now except travel safe and make sure all your equipment is in order. LOTW 2018 HERE WE COME !!

### Release contest update

July is here and we are starting to see a few more fish reported. Wally Haas was up in northern Wisconsin where he got his first Lunge of the year measuring 40 inches on a bucktail. Carson and Frank Wilary were out hopping on three different Canadian lakes. They hit Eagle, Canyon and Indian Lake. Carson had an outstanding trip banging fish of 35, 34, 38, 30, and 35 inches. Dad also had a great trip boating fish of 42, 38, 33, 40 inches. Rumor has five of these fish were on a custom bucktail that Carson designed. They also paid tribute to "Musky Mary" Hoernecke and released four of the fish on her signature purple-and-silver Mepps. Great job and awesome tribute to Mary! The St. Clair trolling team was out again and were rewarded with another fantastic trip. As of this writing, we only have release forms from two of the participants.



*Kevin Stenzel with a 46-incher and Jack Pertz with a fat 39-inch hybrid from Lake St. Clair.*

First is Kevin Stenzel. Kevin was able to troll up toothy critters of 46, 40, 37, 33, and 41 inches. His LOTW partner Jack Pertz was also on the trip and this time it was his turn to get the big girl. Jack proceeded to stick fish of 39, 50, 49, 40, and 36 inches. Rumor also has it (although don't have the form yet) that Dean Stoehr also got a 50 inch class fish along with a few others. Another great trip folks!

Well the Lake of the Woods trip is next week and those who are going are getting really revved up. Good luck to everyone this summer!

Remember to send your release forms post marked within 30 days to:

**Steve Ruhmann**  
**14728 Whisper Wind Way**  
**South Beloit, Illinois**  
**61080**

Iowa Chapter of Musky Inc.									
2017 Lake of the Woods Bass/Flycatcher Record									
Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



*This 41-incher from Canyon Lake was just one of the 476 Mary Hoernecke registered with Muskies Inc.*

## **Mary Hoernecke, RIP: June 20, 1943-June 20, 2018**

A silver-and-purple Mepps Musky Killer will be the first bait out of the box for many of the 25 members of the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies Inc. during their annual Lake of the Woods trip in July.

That lure was a favorite of “Musky Mary” Hoernecke, one of the top anglers not only among the Flatlanders, but in the country. Mary died June 20, 2018 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. She was 75.



Mary would routinely win the Women’s Masters Release Contest for the Loves Park, Illinois-based club and also would be near the top of the leader board in the Muskies Inc. release contest.

Mary probably caught 80 percent of her fish on that purple Mepps and that wound up being a lot of muskies. She registered 476 fish to Muskies Inc. Her largest was a 51-incher from Lake St. Clair

followed by a 47 from the same body of water. She caught 88 fish 40 inches or bigger. She appeared on the cover of *Muskies Inc.* magazine in October 1992.

“Mary was raised on a farm in Mt. Morris. She never fished a day in her life until she married me,” said Russ, her husband of more than 52 years. “On our first few fishing trips to Canada, she only fished a little for bass and walleye, but never got really excited until I taught her to cast for muskies.

“After catching and releasing a few muskies she was ‘hooked.’ As many muskie fishermen know, you need to do a figure 8 ... Mary could do an excellent figure 8 and caught a big percentage of her fish on them.”

Mary and Russ, who also is a master angler and a key member of the Flatlanders, were practically synonymous with Canyon Lake, one of their favorite fishing destinations.

“Our typical day on Canyon Lake was to fish a few hours in the morning for muskies and then go in for lunch,” Russ said. “Mary would let me fish alone in the afternoon and she would stay in the cabin creating many craft projects and Christmas gifts. Then, after dinner, we would cast for several hours. Even though she took some hours off, there were many days she would ‘outfish’ me.”

Russ was the longtime secretary and program director for the club. He and Mary would make the 30-minute drive to the Loves Park VFW to attend monthly executive committee meetings. Mary spent much of the meetings knitting, but kept her ears open and contributed to discussions about club activities.

As good of an angler and club member as Mary was, she was a better person. She was an active member in the community and longtime member of the Middle Creek Presbyterian Church where she served as a Sunday School teacher and deacon.

“I think she was most proud of being a wonderful wife and mother!” Russ said. “She and our daughter, Joanne, had a special bond. Joanne lived in Colorado until Mary was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Joanne moved back to Byron to help us during this difficult time. The three of us made a trip to Canyon Lake last September once Mary was done with radiation and chemo.

“Muskie Mary was able to catch one more musky last year . Because the weather was cold, the fish pattern changed so she had to adapt -- no purple Mepps -- but she caught the fish just the same.”

She and Russ were longtime "skippers" of the Middle Creek Navigators. Mary belonged to many organizations including the Ogle & Winnebago County Home Extension, Ogle County 4-H, Ogle County Relay for Life.

Ironically, she was a top fund raiser for cancer research, the disease that took her life. She was the team captain of the "Muskie Mary Marchers" for many years, and the past three years, her team achieved the "gold team" -- meaning they raised more than \$5,000.

Mary was a family assistant to two special families in Stillman Valley where she helped raise eight "pseudo" grandchildren. She was a wonderful woman who contributed to her community.

“I will miss her as my favorite fishing partner and my best friend,” Russ said. “Thank goodness the best catch of my life didn’t get away- we shared 52 and a half years of marriage. Lots of love and laughs along the way...”

Our condolences to Russ and Joanne. All of us in the Flatlanders family will miss Muskie Mary.




President  
Dick Cholke  
815-222-1062

Vice president  
Lee Bach  
815-494-7258

Treasurer  
Jack Pertz  
815-629-2562

Secretary  
Wally Haas  
815-262-2891

Release chairman  
Steve Ruhmann  
815-558-3666



**Carlson Orthopedic Clinic**

**Mark E. Carlson, M.D.**  
Kelly Magoon, PA-C

1848 Daimler Road  
Rockford, IL 61112

Phone: 815.398.9100  
Fax: 815.986.6770  
E-Mail: Carlsonorthoclinic@gmail.com



**LEADERS & LURES** Leaders:  
All Sizes & Weights

[www.leadersandlures.com](http://www.leadersandlures.com) • 815-654-0902

Gene Seuring • Rockford, Illinois  
E-mail: [leadersandlures@gmail.com](mailto:leadersandlures@gmail.com)



A Division of  
GS Specialties Inc.

LOVESPARKMOTORSPORTS.COM

LOVES PARK  
**MOTORSPORTS**

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



**ACEBAITS**



[www.ACETANDEM.com](http://www.ACETANDEM.com)  
612-210-6312



**YAMAHA**  
EXPECT A LOT.™

SALES ~ SERVICE ~ PARTS  
CRESTLINER ~ CROWNLINE  
SYLVAN

**EVEN KEEL MARINE INC.**  
*Even Better Than You Think*

6621 W. State  
Rockford, IL



**963-1105**