



Meetings at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at Loves Park VFW.

On the water and on to Canada

Fishing season is heating up so let's get some fish in the net



If you haven't been on the water yet, look what you're missing.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

It sure feels good to be back on the water on a regular basis. What makes it even better, there is a fish on the board with my name on it and Lake of the Woods is right around the corner. If you are like a bunch of us, we can't wait to meet at the Flying J and start heading north.

This year we have 25 anglers heading up to Canada. Preparations have started and we are getting the bugs worked out of the boats that sat in storage. The early trips this spring help define if our rigs are ready for the big water. Some guys are fixing the stuff that broke, others added new equipment, and one guy has the

new boat (he is the guy with the big smile). The meeting Tuesday should get us together to plan the annual trip. We will have 18 anglers at Bay Store with another seven at Flag Island Resort. 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 (a beer may be included if desired). 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. Some things to think about for the trip include: safety equipment, bugs, the super-hot weather, high winds, flat tires, rocks that were not in that spot last year, and a week of rain. We have been lucky in past years but we need to be prepared for some of the tough conditions. As you might have guessed by now, I am pumped for the trip.

In addition, remember at the meeting Tuesday night we will draw for the rod and reel raffle. Bring your maps to mark up and talk to your cabin partners about the menus, etc. Last reminder, if you have not applied for your Remote Area Border Pass, you may be sitting at the post office on July 13 waiting for the mail. It takes a few weeks to complete the process.

Our outing to Lake Waubesa in May did not put any fish in the net but some followed toward the end of the day. We were surprised by the lack of boats muskie fishing, considering there was a tournament and the CMMI outing on the same day.

Reminder – there are no general meetings in the months of July and August! Everyone is out fishing. We will resume the meetings in September. I would like to get speakers for our fall meetings. If you have someone in mind feel free to talk to me at the meeting. Other new ideas are welcome – let's keep the momentum rolling. Also this summer make a point of getting someone new in your boat whether it be a fellow Flatlander or someone new to muskie fishing.



Make sure to schedule the remaining outings and fish with the Flatlanders. Here is the list:

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)

The September trip will probably be the same format as our first outing to Lake McMaster. Fish the outing on Swan Lake on Saturday, stay overnight in the area, and fish another body of water on Sunday.

Six of us will be attending the Muskie Inc Chapter Challenge on Lake of the Woods near Morson at the end of August. This is a great week. Consider this event for next year – a second week at LOTW is worth it.

Informal trips to Madison and Twin Valley will be organized in the fall for the sucker bite, depending on which lake has been moving fish.

The mid-week Flatlanders trips are getting started. Feel free to join us. Get on the e-mail list and let's hit some new water this year. Sharing information with the weekend group helps everyone stay on the active fish. We need more good fish photos for the newsletter and the Muskie Inc. article
Get on the water and get on the board!

Release contest update

Howdy Flatlanders. The month of June has brought a few more fish with the warmer weather. Our first to hit the boards is Bob "JSM"

Cholke. Bob was out with his brother Dick trolling on Wingra when a 35.75-inch muskellunge munched his Johnson Silver Minnow. This is now his "go to" bait. Well Dick could not let that be the only one so he proceeded to troll up a 33.5 on the following trip. I too have been out on the mighty waters of Lake Wingra and released a 40.5 toothy critter. Jeremy VenHuizen has been hitting it hard and was able to stick Esox of 31, 30, and 36 inches from Carlton. He added to that total with a 34-incher from Twin Valley. Since we are talking about Twin Valley, Aaron Wiegel was also out washing lures and popped a 35 incher from there.

Well now it is time for the rest of us to start bringing fish to the net. Good luck this year and as always be safe.

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

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whisper Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080



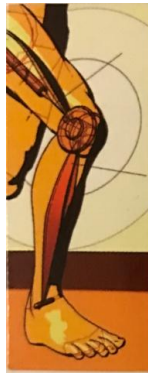
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