



November 2018 newsletter

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

Jacked up! Pertz scores big

Jack Pertz lands a 51, 50 and 49 during trip to Lake St. Clair



Jack Pertz, with First Mate Alec Pascua, caught this 50-incher trolling on Lake St. Clair..

By **Jack Pertz**
Flatlanders treasurer

On Oct. 29 and 30 three fellow Flatlanders fished Lake St. Clair aboard the Fins and Grins Muskie Charters, with Captain Jason Quintano and First Mate Alec Pascua. This was the last trolling charter of the year for Jason. Jeff Gayhart, Russ Hoernecke and I were the Flatlanders that made the trip. Tuesday was very windy and only five fish were boated, topped by a beautiful 49-incher landed by Russ and a very chunky 45-incher caught by Jeff. On

day two, the wind had shifted to the south and wasn't as strong as the day before. We were treated to a beautiful sunrise followed by some awesome muskies. Jeff landed a nice 43 and a 48 inch chunk weighed in the net at 30 pounds. Russ caught several between 32 and 39 inches. Kevin Stenzel's lucky horseshoe somehow ended up in my back pocket. I landed three fish; 49, 50 and 51! Of the 15 fish caught, five fish easily totaled over 150 pounds of muskies. It was a good trip!

The president's message

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

I am wondering how to make the chapter news more interesting after I have included Randy Brady's story later in the newsletter. Make sure to read Randy's account of their weekend up north. Other hard news from up north is not as encouraging. Leo Hauser was texting me the conditions from Squaw Lake the weekend of November 10, 11. He had to break ice to get the boat on the lake and indicated the season is about to be iced over – this seems way too early. I need to get more fish on the board. Maybe a few local fish will cooperate.

The important news is the November general meeting. We have the election of officers for the upcoming year. Consider running for a position. We have to give the folks that have held these positions many thanks for their years of promoting our chapter. Holding a position on the board is not as much time as you might think and we welcome and appreciate new faces and ideas. We also encourage anyone to just help out with the board activities. A few guys splitting up some of the responsibilities can also grow our chapter and insure a solid future. Let's keep the Flatlander's an active growing group and have fun in the process. We will also have the Muskie Corn Hole game scheduled for the November meeting. I would not suggest practicing with any muskies but tossing some larger left over suckers may get the old arm in shape for a fun evening.

Here are few more items:

The Muskie Inc. Calendars will be out shortly. This is one of the few fund raising activities of MI national. The purchase of the calendars and any addition contributions help keep the organization active and positive.

The Chapter Challenge dates have been set for Aug. 21-23 back at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. This is a great week so we hope you can plan on another week in Canada.

Remember, the December meeting is our annual Christmas party and gift swap. Bring a new wrapped muskie fishing related item worth at least \$15 to the meeting to be passed around the room and a good round of grab for your neighbor. You may need to get your order into



Rollie and Helen's Musky Shop early to receive your item before the meeting. In addition, bring a dish to pass or snack for the evening meal. There is usually way more food than appetites.

For those of you that did not make the last meeting, here is a recap of our last outing. We would first like to thank Bob Bell and the Wormsoakers for letting us join in their annual trip. Bob puts on a very nice event for Rockford based anglers with a nice mix of socializing and fishing. We had a great time with nice accommodations, good food, good fishing, and a few sodas. We got an idea of the weather that is coming our way on that last outing at Lake Namekagon. It was a very cool weekend with strong winds, falling temperatures, and snow. We still caught fish and took some top honors for the weekend. The group of 60 anglers registered 15 fish. Six Flatlanders accounted for five of those fish. Here are the results of another good weekend on the water.

Leo Hauser: 39.5, 35; second place
Brian Hansas: 39.5
Frank Sondgeroth: 45 – Frank's second muskie and personal best.
Dick Cholke: 43.5
Leo Hauser and Brian Hansas took the team first place

Pre-Tournament

Stu Sondgeroth: 42 -- first muskie

We are just about to wrap to the season and hopefully the few hardy souls that do get out put a few more fish in the boat. The important item to remember in this late season is to use common sense and be safe.

As always get on the water and on the board

A must read article

I received an e-mail a few days ago from Randy Brady. It made me think that there is a lot more to fishing, hunting and all the other activities we do outdoors. If you don't know the Brady group, Randy is grandpa, his son is Travis and Jax is the grandson. They recently went to one of Travis's favorite lakes to get Jax his first muskie. Here is Randy's story of the weekend:

Subject: A Fish Story
Dick and Steve,
A fish story describing our second outing of the year.



Travis, his son Jaxon and I made our fall trip to Oxbow just the 3 of us.

Our goal was to get Jaxon his 1st musky. Travis and I had an agreement 1st fish went to Jax.

Day 1 after being on the water about 2 hours we were coming through some weeds and on the outer edge a clicker sounded off. It was a rod at the front of the boat Travis reached down to see if it was another weed and felt a bump he knew it was a fish. As Travis picked the rod up he told Jax get ready you're bringing this fish in. Jax was shocked excited and scared all at the same time then he said NO I'M NOT. Travis assured Jax that every thing would be ok and he would help him. As I got the net ready Jaxon got ready too. He moved to the front of the boat next to Travis. Travis told Jax it's time to set the hook be ready because I'm gonna give you the rod right after and you're going to reel it in.

I could see Jax was nervous and worried just then BAM Travis set the hook there was a small struggle then Travis handed the rod to Jax. Travis had his arms around Jax one hand on Jax and one hand on the rod. Jaxon was holding on to the rod tight with both hands and began to reel the musky in.

He could feel the weight and strength of the fish on the other end he kept reeling before long the fish was at the side of the boat. I had the net in the water and the fish was headed for it. THEN IT HAPPENED

The fish rolled over spit the sucker out and down it went.

Or so we thought it did?

Our little 9-year-old was so excited he was talking about 100 miles an hour. And for a little while he became the captain/fishing guide of the boat telling Travis and me what we should be doing to catch a fish. As jax was talking Travis was checking the sucker and rig out. The hooks were still in and the sucker was still swimming. Then up from the bottom the muskie was back checking the sucker out Travis and Jax both seen it again. Travis dropped the sucker down and the muskie hit it again. Travis could tell it had the sucker in its mouth and it was on but it wasn't moving, it might have been on the bottom? Travis told Jax to get ready to do it again Jaxon wasted no time getting ready this time he was at Travis's side waiting for the hand off. Travis thought he had the fish moving away from us so he set the hook a second time on the

same muskie only to pull the quick set out of the sucker and coming up empty this time. Dinner for the muskie was on us that late afternoon.

We all were a little disappointed but it was fun experience that we will never forget.

The second fish came 2 days later it's not as eventful as the 1st but Jax was at my side the whole time.

We had just got on the water for the day not very far from the cabin.

We were making a couple passes around a 4ft hump 20ft deep on one side 8, 10, 15 on the other. Travis had spotted some bait fish on the depth finder. Shortly after that our suckers became very active something was spooking them. Just a few moments later click, click ,click it was my rod this time. I looked at my line counter I was at 8ft. As I was picking my rod up I asked Travis how deep are we he said 11. I knew then FISH. I had the rod in my hand and I could feel this fish now. I looked at Jax and asked him if he was ready to try it again. As Travis was getting the net ready Jaxon was getting ready to he moved to the front of the boat next to me waiting for the hook set and hand off. The fish was ready to because it turned and started to swim away. GAME TIME

The line was tight with only 8ft out so I set the hook and turned the fish around. It went straight under the boat. Now the rod was bent like a horse shoe I couldn't give it to Jax with all that tension on it. I gave it a tug and a couple more cranks it came out to the side of the boat where Travis was waiting and went straight into the net GAME OVER with Jax still by my side waiting for the hand off.

SORRY JAX It all happened so fast.

This fish will always be known as the muskie Jax and I caught 10-27-18 37-3/4 in.

As will the 1st fish be known as the muskie Travis and Jax lost twice 10-25-18 mid 30s.

I hope everyone that reads this fish story enjoys it as much as I did writing and living it.

This was one of the best weekends of my life.

--Randy Brady

Thank you Randy, Travis and Jax for a great story of fishing, family and the reminder we all need to get the young people in our lives out fishing!

The following is the 2019 schedule for the Flatlander's:

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 13-20: Flatlanders Outing at Lake of the Woods

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

Sept. 17: Flatlanders General Meeting

Sept. 27-29: 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.

Who's catching fish?

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Well it is getting that time of year again where we are winding down from another season. Some of us are still out there chasing the almighty muskellunge and being rewarded for our efforts. We start this month's updates with Mike Kruger. Mike has been out on a few different bodies of water. His first stop was Twin Valley where he popped a 40 incher. He was also floating around on a bigger body of water known as Green Bay where he trolled up a 34 inch lunge. Next is President Dick Cholke.

While on the Warm Soakers outing Dick banged a fat 43.5 incher. Mary Lou Pertz has been out and made the board with a 35 inch toothy critter from Edward. Husband Jack was back out on St. Clair and had an outstanding trip. He proceeded to boat Esox of 38, 32, 51, 49, and 50. The last three big ones were an hour apart after the previous one. Great trip Jack! Mr. Ace Tandem Jerry Oestreich has also been out and jigged up a 41 and then went back in Phil Blanck's honor and got a 47.5 on a blue/silver jackpot. Both were caught on Forest Lake. Jeff Blanck and I got out this fall on Twin Valley where Jeff stuck a 36.5 on a Bulldawg in one foot of water. I was rewarded with a 35 on a sucker. I then have been out on Wingra and was able to get my biggest Wingra fish as well as the biggest so far of the year at 44.5 inches. That brings us to the father and son team of Frank and Carson Wilary. Carson popped a 33.5 on one of his own homemade bucktails. Pops Frank then stuck a 43-incher on a Jig. Our final fish of the month comes from Randy Brady. Randy was on Oxbow and got a 37.75-inch Lunge to munch his sucker. The story behind that fish is featured in another article in this month's newsletter.

Well that is it for this month. Some of us diehards are still out and I hope to report a few more fish. Remember, safety this time of year is so important. Make sure you use every precaution when you are bundled up in this cold and are prepared for the unexpected.

Remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

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