



November 2019 newsletter

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

Elections Tuesday night!

We need fresh faces, ideas to keep the club going strong. Who will step up?



Flatlanders participated in a musky rescue at Pierce Lake. Kyle Scruggs displays one of the fish saved.

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

Summer is behind us and the fall bite is starting! It is that time of year again, when we ask for your time to support our chapter. The board has some openings that need to be filled for the 2020 season. The positions of vice president and merchandise/ raffle chairman have opened up to offer a chance for new ideas to move the chapter forward. We would like to thank Lee Bach and Dick Estes for all of their efforts. In addition, the rest of the Executive Committee would welcome some new faces next year for





There's always a photo op and time to take a break. Thanks for doing this.

any of the positions (especially president!). We try to keep the time commitment to a minimum and to maximize the fun to work ratio. Please consider running for a position and volunteering some time to grow our chapter. Get your fishing partner involved and maybe split some of the responsibilities. We are flexible with our organization to get more folks involved. We are looking forward to a great season in 2020.

Some great net jobs!

Last Thursday Andy Larson informed us there were muskies trapped below the dam at Rock Cut State Park / Pierce Lake. With no flow coming over the dam and cold winter setting in, we were going to lose some valuable fish. A few phone calls and conversations started a muskie rescue last Sunday. The park staff was extremely supportive and appreciative of the idea. With the help of a couple of pumps we were able to lower the pool to attempt netting the land locked fish. Seven Flatlanders managed to net and put the game fish back into Piece Lake. In total the group rescued 8 muskies 18 – 37”, 2 walleyes, 10 bass, 2 catfish and a few dozen panfish. Net man awards go to Leo Hauser with five, Kyle Scruggs with two, and Bob Cholke with one muskie. In all it was a great day and we would like to thank the staff at Rock Cut for their support.



With all that said, we will bring out the old “Toss the muskie in the hole” game Tuesday night - some call it cornhole and some call it bean bags. We will get our business taken care of and see which team has best hand eye coordination. For those of us that throw muskie lures up in the trees, it is a challenging evening. The December meeting will bring back our annual Christmas



Another 50-incher for Russ Hoernecke on Lake St. Clair. Below, Jack Pertz with a chunky 41.

party. Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped new fishing item of a minimum value of \$15. You can bring multiple items for the evening but be prepared to have your favorite item move around the room with the crazy rules for the present swap.

Looking forward, our January “meeting” is the annual trip to the Chicago Muskie Expo with breakfast at Cracker Barrel. The February meeting will be the presentation of “Flatlanders 2019 season in review.” Our annual awards banquet will be earlier this year on March 7 at Thunder Bay Bar and Grill. We are trying to get organized early this year. We would appreciate any donations for the raffles at the banquet and the “The Rockford All City Muskie Night” on April 8. I recently spoke with Chas Martin and reviewed the evening expectations. He was pumped on coming out and presenting at our event that we share with Rock Valley Anglers.

Here is the list of the Flatlander events in 2020:

- Jan. 18:** Annual trip to the Chicago Muskie Expo and breakfast at the Cracker Barrel
- Feb. 18:** General Meeting with the “Flatlanders 2019 season in review”
- March 7:** Flatlanders Annual Awards Banquet



- April 4, 5:** Lake Kinkaid Regional Chapter Challenge – not a Flatlander outing.
- April 8:** Second annual “Rockford All City Muskie Night” in conjunction with Rock Valley Anglers. This will include a raffle for a half day guide trip with the featured presenter Chas Martin.
- April 25:** Lake Storey near Galesburg, IL
- May 16:** Prairie Lake
- July 18-25:** Lake of the Woods
- August TBD:** Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge
- Sept. 18-20:** Bay of Green Bay
- Oct. 2-4:** Hayward Lakes Chapter Muskie Tournament

As you can see we stayed with a few old lakes and added a few new ones. In addition, the

October outing to Hayward will offer more festivities if we care to enter the tournament.

I would like to try adding something new to the newsletter. In a recent search of the YouTube videos I found a few that really helped me out. I was thinking we should share those with the rest of our group. Thus, see below for the videos that I found to be excellent and helped me. If you find some you like send the titles, links etc. to Wally Haas or myself and we will get them in the next newsletter. These could be ranging from instructional ways to setup your locator or information on lakes that we all fish.

Joe Caruana, president of the Rock Valley Anglers has invited all Flatlanders to their annual banquet December 4. See the attachment for the details.

Behind the scenes, Jack Pertz has been working with Muskie Inc. national to get our 503 C3 status reinstated with the IRS. This establishes our chapter as a non-profit organization with the IRS. A big thanks goes out to Jack for taking care of business for the chapter.

Just remember the season is not over yet. We still have some open water and we can still put fish on the board. Make sure to enter your fish into the Muskie Inc. database and with Steve Ruhmann within 30 days of your catch. Oh and be safe – Cold water needs a lot of respect.

Get on the water and get on the board

Good Stuff

The following are sources for some good information that we can share. It can be YouTube videos, information on seminars, or anything that you think other anglers would like to share.

Here is a great video on how to set up your Huminbird locator. It offers the settings for sonar, down imaging, and side imaging. Yes, we don't fish crappie but this is a good explanation of some common items.

Flopping Crappie Complete Guide to Fishing Electronics (How to read Fish Finder)

Flopping Crappie How to Find Crappie with Down Imaging Sonar (How to Locate Crappie 2018)

Flopping Crappie How to find Fish (Crappie Sonar Basics)

Flopping Crappie How to Find CRAPPIE with 2D Sonar (How to Locate Crappie)

Tails from Lake St. Clair

On Oct. 28, 29, three Flatlanders made their final trip to the "Musky Factory" for the 2019 season. Jeff Gayhart, Russ Hoernecke and Jack Pertz made the trek to St. Clair only to find that the "factory" was on plant shutdown. For their 2 day effort on the water, only 8 fish were boated and several more tried to get caught but somehow managed to escape. Apparently they were camera shy. On day one, only 4 fish were willing to come aboard! Jack led off with a 37 incher, followed by Russ boating a respectable 43 incher. Jeff was up and a rod got hit. We never got to see her, but she was pretty heavy. After a brief battle, she shook off! Just before calling it quits, Jeff and Jack doubled up on a pair of 40 inchers. Headlocks and Jointed Nils crankbaits were the hot baits on day one! The trio started day 2 at 7:30 a.m. It wasn't until 10:30 that a muskie decided to eat a White Faced Frog Ziggy. Russ was up and this fish was well worth the wait! She measured 50 inches and had a 21 inch girth and was beautifully marked. This was Russ's second 50 from St. Clair this year. Another couple hours went by before the next fish was boated by Jeff, a 38 incher caught on a 007 Ziggy. Two hours later, Jack had a "giant" hit. He got the fish near the boat and the mate was standing on the swim platform ready to apply the net. We estimated 52 inches! She surfaced, did a little headshake, and said goodbye. Shortly after that Jack boated a 41 incher, also caught on a 007 Ziggy. Russ graciously passed his next turn on to Jeff since Russ was feeling pretty pumped up after that 50 incher. Jeff boated the last fish of the day, a 32 incher caught on a Glitter Perch Headlock. At 3:00 p.m. the three headed in, happy with the few fish that were caught, especially Russ, and Jack and Jeff wishing they would have landed the ones that got away!



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