



# FLATLANDERS

September 2015

## TAILS

MEETINGS: 7:30 P.M. ~ FOURTH THURSDAY ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

## Flatlanders continue fantastic fishing

By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman

Hello Fellow Flatlanders. September is here and you folks are kicking tail! Again for this month's write up we have a large number of fish. This update will have fish from July and August.

We start with Brock Jack, during the Lake of the Woods trip, Brock spanked fish that measured 46, 42.5, 35, 44.5, and 38 inches. During a recent trip to Lake St. Clair, four Flatlanders trolled up some beauties. We start with Dick Cholke, Dick released fish measuring 38.5, 42, 34, and 36. Current Men's Division Leader Jack Pertz stepped up to the rod and banged fish that bumped the board at 40, 40, 40, and 42. Russ Hoernecke also did his part by trolling up fish of 44, 47, 41, and 35. Big Man on Campus this trip was Kevin Stenzel. Kevin boated Esox of 37, 46, 40, 44, 48, and a new personal best of 51 inches! Congratulations Mr. Stenzel! Rumor has it he is now looking for a good taxidermist since the one he used to use retired.

That brings us to another team that has added a new personal best to their fish list. Becky and Jerry Oestreich have been chasing toothy critters all over. First they went to LOTW where Becky released a 38.5 and a 39 inch Lunge. Jerry added to the team numbers with fish bumping in at 41.5, 38.5, 38, 36, 36, 47, and 42.5. That was an outstanding trip but it got better.

Shortly after they got home they headed over to Bone Lake where Jerry popped a 38 and Becky got her new personal best of 48 inches! The story goes that after losing a couple of fish earlier, the team headed in for dinner and a nap. They headed back to Becky's favorite spot and upon learning of a different finger coming off the spot with some cabbage and receiving instruction from Jerry, Becky hollers back "GET THE NET."

After some slow headshakes and steady pressure, she put the beast in the net. A big Salute to you Becky for landing your new personal best and one to Jerry for guiding her to the fish and putting it in the bottom of the bag!

Next up is current Men's Master Division Leader Jeremy Venhuizen. Jeremy snuck back up north with partner



*Becky Oestreich caught her personal best, a 48-incher, on Bone Lake.*

Greg Lehman and they were rewarded for their efforts. Jeremy banged fish measuring 30.5 and 33. Greg did his part and popped fish of 46.5 and 41.5. The 41.5 appears to be a tiger but we are still in debate over that. Regardless, it was an extremely pretty fish.

Longtime member Jerry Larson was out in the Madison Chain and released a 39-incher. Another long-time member Kevin Bunch went to LOTW and stuck fish measuring 35 and 38 inches.

Flatlanders President Jeff Blanck is heard from with his first fish coming from LOTW of 39.5, 34.5, and then headed to Vermilion for the PMTT and poked fish of 47.5 and 34.

Mike Kruger and I were out on Monona with Mike sticking a 36-incher and I got a 42. A couple weeks later, Dick Cholke and I headed back to Monona to celebrate my birthday and we had fantastic day. Dick popped fish bumping the board at 32 and 42.5 inches. I

coaxed fish into munching that measured 41.5, 43, and 42.5 inches. Since it was such an outstanding day, I headed back up and was able to stick another 42.5 incher. Needless to say, a great birthday weekend.

The next group of characters headed back up to LOTW for a second trip this year. Gary Severson, Les Edgcomb, Mike Tronc, and Lee Bach all scored. Gary popped fish of 36, 36, 40, 40, 43, and 43. Five of his fish came on the same day. Les added to the team totals with Lunge of 36, 36, and 46 inches. Mike banged Esox 38 and 36 inches. Lee rounded out the team totals by sticking a toothy critter of 42.

That brings us to the Father in law, Father and son team of Mike Bowers, Frank and Ben Wilary. On their trip to Long Legged Lake, Mike boated fish measuring 43.5 and 45.5. Frank boated an Esox measuring 42 while Ben popped a piggy bumping the boards at 45 inches.

Prior to the trip, the Wilary's were on their home body of water with Frank boating fish of 34.5 and 30.5 inches. Ben added to his numbers with Lunge of 34 and 35 inches.

Our final group of entries come from Kris and Mark Carlson. They have been up to their cabin on the St. Lawrence with Kris releasing fish of 45, 38, and 50 inches. Mark has been having a fantastic summer and boated fish at 50, 51, 51.5, 52, 55, 38, 34, 43, 36, 42, 36, 38, 38, 44.5, 38, 41, 40, 38, 34, 52, 46, 47, 53.5, 48, 42, 40, and 40. That is one fantastic summer!

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

Steve Ruhmann  
14728 Whispering Wind Way  
South Beloit, Illinois  
61080

*(Up-to-date standings are on a separate attachment.)*

### Next outing: Eagle River Chain

The Deer Lake outing was just completed as I was finishing the newsletter. Sorry, I don't have a report, but you can hear all about it at Thursday's meeting. You can also hear about the next outing, which will be on the Eagle River Chain Oct. 9-11. There will be all kinds of stories to share, probably a few that will embellish what Steve wrote in his report. Show up Thursday and find out more about how club members have been catching fish and intend to catch fish as the fall season begins.

### 2016 outings schedule

You can start planning next season's fishing trips. Here's what we decided, based on your input from last month's meeting, for the 2016 outings.

April 30 Story and Mc Master Lakes IL (McMaster is also known as Snake Den Hollow)

**May 21, 22:** Madison Chain (to facilitate members that need to work on Saturday)

**June 24, 25, 26:** Squaw, Squirrel, Booth and Buckhorn

**July 16-23:** Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp

**September 16, 17, 18:** North Twin

**October 28, 29, 30:** Deer, Bone, Apple and Wapogasset

### Awards banquet

The awards banquet is tentatively scheduled for March 19 at the VFW. We hope to lock in that date soon, but for your planning purposes, put that date on your calendar.

### Standings attached separately

Take a look at how things are shaping up in the various divisions. The standings are a separate attachment.

#### Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

- To promote a high quality Muskellunge sport fishery
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies
- To promote Muskellunge research
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
- To support the abatement of water pollution
- To maintain records of habits, growth and range of species
- To disseminate Muskellunge information
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

#### Officers & Committee Chairs

##### President

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Vice President

Dave Jack 815-389-1132

##### Treasurer

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

##### Secretary

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

##### Chapter representative

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

##### Members Only Contest

Steve Ruhmann 815-558-3666

##### Membership

Dick Cholke 815-222-1062

##### Merchandise

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

##### Newsletter Editor

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

Email: [whaas17@comcast.net](mailto:whaas17@comcast.net)

##### Outings

Jeremy Venhuizen 815-499-9065

Email: [jeremyv22@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyv22@yahoo.com)

##### Pierce Lake Project

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Programs

Steve Ruhmann 815-389-4622

##### Stocking

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Website

Tom Pellant 815-397-1779

##### Youth Director

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

Web site:

[www.flatlanderschapter.com](http://www.flatlanderschapter.com)

# CARLSON ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC

Mark Carlson, MD  
 Amanda Reisinger, PT, MPT  
 Kelly Hix, PT MPT

1848 Daimler Rd.  
 Rockford, IL 61112

Phone: 815/398-9100  
 Fax: 815/986-6770



**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

CAN-AM  
 SEA-DOO  
 SKI-DOO  
 ARCTIC CAT

**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**

**LAC SEUL FLOATING LODGES**  
 HUDSON ONTARIO  
 PROVIDING OUR GUESTS WITH AN ENJOYABLE  
 HOUSE-BOATING EXPERIENCE FOR OVER 25 YEARS

**Michael Starratt**  
 Lac Seul Floating Lodges  
 Box 210, Hudson, ON P0V 1X0  
 Tel: 807-582-3284  
 email: [info@lacseulfloatinglodges.com](mailto:info@lacseulfloatinglodges.com)  
 web: [www.lacseulfloatinglodges.com](http://www.lacseulfloatinglodges.com)

## Tournament tales

By Jeff Blanck  
Flatlanders president

Wally asked me to do a little write up about my PMTT tournament experience so far and I must say that this year has been an enjoyable trail, to say the least. It is probably because my partner, Tom Rizzio, and I have caught a couple fish. We haven't caught anything earth shattering like others in the tournaments have done, but our catches have made the events more exciting and we have gained new knowledge about lakes and techniques along the way.

The PMTT consists of three qualifying events and a championship event for the top 35 qualifying teams. The first leg of the trail was in April at Cave Run in Kentucky. This event was special because the lake was experiencing record high waters. The lake was 31' ABOVE NORMAL POOL! It was crazy! We were fishing around tree tops, parking lot light poles, fences and other things that are normally way up on shore away from the lake front. It made for some interesting structure targets while casting. Tom was able to get a 33 3/4" fish to eat his Suick during a feeding window that put us on the board. Unfortunately, we were not able to catch any more that may have put us in the money (top 10 for the event). It was very interesting to witness what many Flatlanders have seen over the years when a feeding window opens. The judge boats were getting called left and right as many boats within sight were catching fish. It's pretty cool to see and at the same time you are hoping to get that hit before the window closes. The pattern that showed itself that weekend was to camp on a spot and wait out the fish, fan casting an area that you knew held fish. This was a familiar pattern that proved successful at the 2014 Mille Lacs event where the bite was non-existent. The winners had fished the lake before and knew of a couple good spots. Rather than run around, they camped on the spot and waited for the window to open. When it did, they caught two fish in a short time and won the event. Cave Run was the same. The winners sat in the same spot ALL DAY and caught numerous fish to clinch the win. It can get kind of boring, throwing to the same stuff over and over again, but it works.

The second leg was on the Eagle River Chain in June. The bite was slow again, especially for us, but there are always a few that figure something out. We raised only a few fish and had no takers that could help us out. This was particularly disappointing in that both Tom and I know the Chain very well but we struggle to get a fish in the net at that event for some reason. I guess it's still musky fishing and there is no guarantee. It's very humbling when everyone around you is getting fish and you're not ... .sigh.

The third leg was on Lake Vermilion, a lake I fish a lot, so it was nice to see it on the schedule this year. This event proved to be a record setting event with the largest fish ever reported in the PMTT history (57 1/2") and more big fish than ever turned in. We were able to get on the board



Tom Rizzio and Jeff Blanck with a 33.75-incher caught in April at Cave Run.



Jeff caught this 47.5t on a crappie-colored Phantom.

on day 2 with a skinny 47 1/2" fish I caught on a large crappie Phantom soft tail. This fish also got us on the board for trail points but not in the money during that event. We found fish on a few favorite spots that many of us have fished before. Those spots proved to be good during this event as we saw numerous fish only a few feet away from each other on each spot. It made for a good milk run during the event as we didn't have to travel far from one spot to another. Even considering Vermilion gets a lot of fishing pressure, then adding in a tournament, the lake handled it well. There is plenty of water for tournament anglers and non-tournament anglers alike. We never had any issues with getting cut off, it was close because others liked the same spots we did, but we didn't have issues.

The excitement of going in to the virtual weigh-in to see how the lakes responded to the different techniques is always surprising. There are times of realizing you didn't do so bad and times of "holy cow, we got our butts kicked". I feel the two most valuable things in these events is seeing where others fish on the lakes and what others were using to catch fish. Vermilion was interesting to find out that event though we were seeing fish on white colored glide baits, the pattern for catching multiple fish was burning dark colored bucktails. We threw bucktails

