

# THE RELEASE

May 2015

Website:

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



**MEETING: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 7:30 pm**  
**Waite Park American Legion**  
**Speaker: RANDY PIERSON OF AVON MARINE**  
**Topic: BOAT PERFORMANCE**

## **Time on the Water . . . . .** By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

We are vastly approaching the opener and everything thing looks good. Spring has finally arrived and the weather has not been too bad. For those of you that made it to the Expo I hope you had a wonderful time and maybe picked up a few new lures. Remember that you can never have too many lures!

Once again I would like to thank everyone that helped out and participated in the Annual Anglers Dinner Fundraiser. It was a lot of work, but it all came together nicely. Our Dinner chairman Ken Schmitt did an outstanding job as usual. He spends countless hours making sure everything in perfect, and it wouldn't be what it is today if not for him. This year we had more volunteers than ever before. That shows me that the members really care about our sport and what we are doing as a chapter.

We have a changing of the guards at the International level. The new President elect is Carl Phillips. I have known Carl for many years and know that he will be a great fit for our organization. He has many new ideas and am looking forward to seeing them put in play. Also our very own Thomas Ardolf accepted the position of Corporate Secretary. Tom will do a fantastic job in this position and we all congratulate him.

Thanks again and have a very safe spring.

*Bruce*

## **THANK YOU**

I want to thank all of our members that helped with our annual fish dinner by selling their tickets and soliciting prizes for our only fundraiser of the year. A special thank you goes out to all of our members that helped out that night: Eric Kohn, Bruce Kitowski, Norine Schmitt, Sven Larson, Joe Pfannanstein, Tom and Susie Ardolf, Ken Smith, Gene Bzdok, Andy and Rachel Michls, Jason Jacobs, Ron Fenske, Eric Poissant, Ryan Hoffman family, Roger Theiler, Mike Weis, Todd Weeres, Nate and Paula Rose, Bob Wruck, Bob Kmitch, Aaron Meyer, Royce and Bonnie Nies, Ron and Judy Cruiser. And the best kitchen crew that made the best fish ever: Mike Ruff, Joe Lauer, Dale Oakland and Denny Kobiela.

Ken Schmitt  
Fish Dinner Chair

**2015 FISH DINNER FUNDRAISER**



## **WEBMASTER. . . . .** By Tom Ardolf

### **May 2015 Webmaster Report**

**FaceBook:** It was great to see the sharing of our Fish Fry Fundraiser flyer on Facebook. Like many marketing efforts we may not know the direct or indirect affect, but we did reach a lot of people. Here are the stats on each of the posts of the flyer, in terms of “Reach,” which means someone has seen it:

03/09/15 -1.3 K	3/22/15 - 990
04/17/15 – 813	04/20/15 - 172
04/23/15 - 572	

Ron Fenske took some great pictures at our Awards Night, and I had a chance to post those pictures. It was a great evening – good participation, a superb presentation by Ryan Hoffman, and pizza for everyone! I hope we can keep up the camaraderie of a meeting like this one was in April.

As I write this, we are up to 343 LIKES, a gain of seven over the past month. You all know my passion to get this up higher than any other chapter, so anytime you can think of someone to invite, please do.....

**Cafepress:** No news for this month. I did notice at the meeting and at the fish fry that there were a couple orders placed since I saw some new sweatshirts, which was great to see.

**Web Site:** Nothing new on this, either. I keep rotating the Sponsor of the Month, of course, and put the new newsletter on the page, but nothing compelling to report on the web site.

**Other:** I did have the opportunity to attend the Muskies, Inc. Annual Board Meeting (ABM) in Green Bay, WI on April 18<sup>th</sup>. A new president, Carl Phillips from Twin Cities, Chapter 1, was elected our new president. He has a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to boost the voice of the chapters and the regions, and so we should plan on some new opportunities to have a voice in changes to M.I. Carl has also active in MMPA, so a number of our chapter members have already worked side by side Carl.

The candidate for VP of Finance/Treasurer did not stand, so currently that position is unfilled. If someone would be interested, please contact me. Jim Ashton from Wildwood, MO (Region 4/South Central) was elected the VP of Membership and Marketing. I stood and was elected to Corporate Secretary.

Muskies, Inc. will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars and plan on attending! This will be on the same weekend that the Annual Board Meeting will be held and the Hugh Becker Muskie Symposium follows on Sunday - Tuesday, so we're in for 5 days of living the musky way of life!!! (The event is at the Sheraton Mpls. West in Minnetonka.)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the chapter.

**TOM ARDOLF**

*Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.*  
[Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com)



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## PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT . . . . . By Aaron Meyer

Thank you to everyone who helped at the fish dinner last Friday! Once again, it was a great event! I'd also like to give an extra thank you to Bruce and Ken for being such extremely dedicated leaders of this chapter, and for the great efforts they always put into setting up our fundraiser.

For those that were at the last meeting, I gave a little update on the winter Mille Lacs pike creel data. When the DNR Commissioner liberalized the pike regulations on Mille Lacs, we warned the Fisheries Department that the new regs were not going to protect the lake's big pike, and that serious damage would be done. Well, now that the data has been collected, it proves what we said came true. In fact, the DNR estimates that around 25% of the pike over 30 inches in Mille Lacs were harvested in one winter!! No lake can handle that! Most lakes would NEVER recover. Mille Lacs might, MAYBE. But 20 years' worth of damage was done in one winter. This regulation was implemented to help local businesses during the low point in the walleye population, but destroying the resource will only continue to make matters worse. Hopefully they'll get things figured out.

At the Esox Workshops we continue to try to refine the future of pike management statewide. The plan is for a 3 zone strategy across Minnesota, based on the different pike populations throughout the state. Finding an effective set of regs that is acceptable to the Darkhouse Association is proving to be very difficult.

Muskie stocking rates are being standardized and re-prioritized to help ensure we are being as effective as possible. The DNR is organizing a preliminary list of lakes for possible future muskie stocking. It will be exciting to see what's on the list!

Muskie season is fast approaching and I'm really excited that the official statewide size limit is now 54 inches!! There are a lot of people that helped to make this happen, but the guy who started it all and carried it through to the end is Senator John Hoffman. It's not often that a Legislator fights so hard for better fisheries management. There's an official Minnesota state program that allows us to help Legislators like John. It's called the Minnesota Campaign Refund Program. Believe it or not, you can donate to John's campaign, and the state will refund your money! Yes, you can thank John and help his election campaign, and the state of MN pays you back! All MN voters are eligible. Individuals can donate up to \$50 per year, and households can give up to \$100. I'll attach the info below my article. Also, anyone attending upcoming chapter meetings can get an official Campaign Refund envelope from me. I hope all of you will send John a short thank you letter and donate to his efforts. It's free!

This month our speaker is the VERY informative Randy Pierson from Avon Marine. See you there.


**Aaron** MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT . . . . . By Nate Rose

In April we had 3 new members all in a family membership which includes Tracy, Gracelyn, and Gabrielle Shulte. Glad to have you and look forward to meeting you. It seems we have other new members based on the meetings but maybe they haven't signed up yet. We did not have any members that dropped. Up for renewal we've got Andrew Michl, Kimberle Plante, and Rachel Michl for the month of May. The easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website ([muskiesinc.org](http://muskiesinc.org)) should prompt you for renewal once your membership expires.

Spread the word and encourage anyone interested in muskie fishing/management to join our chapter, it would be great to see our chapter grow.



Elysa Amberg – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth and 9<sup>th</sup> Place International Standings



1<sup>st</sup> Place Mens – Eric Poissant



1<sup>st</sup> Place Women's – Kara Poissant

PLEASE NOTE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:  
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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: KIDS FISHING OUTINGS . . . .** By Eric Kohn

A note of thanks to all the volunteers that helped out to make the fish dinner another successful fundraiser this year. It takes a lot of people to make the night successful. Great job everyone!

We still have a couple of opportunities to volunteer:

1. 13th Annual Big Brother/Big Sister Fishing Outing - Saturday, May 2, 2015, 9:30 AM-1pm Island Rock Park by Bernicks
2. Waite Park Family Fun Day Fishing Derby, Sunday June 14, 2015, 1-3 PM
3. MN High School Muskie Fishing Tournament Early June .

Please contact me for more info. We will be posting on the website more info when available.

Eric Kohn [epkohn34@hotmail.com](mailto:epkohn34@hotmail.com) 612-636-7928

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