

THE RELEASE

AUGUST 2015

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING DATE: August 18, 2015 6:30 pm

WAITE PARK AMERICAN LEGION

SPEAKER: Go-Pro by Mitch Hoihjelle

Time on the WaterBy Bruce A. Kitowski, President

I would like to wish everyone a great time on the water in August. Where did July go, I turned around and summer is half over. I am very excited for what we have in store for the chapter. First of all we are very fortunate to have added a new member to the Board of Directors. Please welcome Ryan Hoffman who has taken up the position of Outings Chairman. Ryan has some outstanding ideas and we know he will take it to the next level. He will be working on the outings for the chapter along with coordinating the lake clean-ups, and pursuing a few other fun things which will hopefully enlighten our membership activity. Ryan is an outgoing and exuberant person that has the energy we have been looking for. I would encourage everyone to get to know him and express your ideas to him; I know that he would appreciate it.

The second thing that I am looking forward to is a special mailer that we will be sending out to all the members. This letter will include a listing of everything we have done through the years and a small survey. We have done surveys in the past with little or no response. This time we are hoping for a different result. It won't take long to fill out and send back to us. I feel it is the responsibility of all the members to complete this. It will give the board some direction as to what you the members would like to see and also help us do a better job. Please take the time to do this, and thank you for participation.

Have a wonderful time on the water and be safe out there!!!

Bruce

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WELCOME RYAN HOFFMAN – OUTING’S CHAIRMAN

Hello, my name is Ryan Hoffman and I'm your newly elected Outings Chairman for the SCMI chapter. A little about me - I grew up in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State in 1999. In 2000 I joined the US Air Force and spent the next 5 years at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. While on active duty in AK I met my wife Rachel, who was there with her Guard unit from Fargo, ND completing their 2 week annual training. Rachel and I got married in the fall of 2002 and moved from AK to MN in 2005 when I separated from active duty. It took living in MN for 4 years before I was infected with the muskie addiction. On my first night out after 7 hours on the water I got my first muskie - a beautiful 45! 20 minutes later the addiction consumed me full force when a 51 took me for a ride and finally ended up in the bag! Needless to say that was it for me and I've pursued these fish ever since.

I now work full time for the MN Air National Guard at the 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul. Rachel and I have 2 boys, age 7 and 4 and I've been lucky enough to have them in the boat with me when a couple fall giants have gone in the net so they are slowly being infected with the muskie bug as well....but I love to take them fishing for "normal" fish too.

As I start this new position I'm very open to your ideas about lakes, time frames that are best, places to stay, etc. and would welcome any feedback you may have for day trips or longer SCMI club outings. I'm currently looking at the calendar for a SCMI day trip in September or October and this winter will start planning for a longer club outing in 2016. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me through the contact info listed on the SCMI board member page. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you, good luck out there!

Ryan



Sponsor Spotlight – Dr. Eric Kohn

Dr. Eric Kohn is our youth director and one of our monthly sponsors with St. Cloud Chapter of Muskies Inc. He has been chasing muskies for the past 15 years. He is a physical therapist at St. Cloud Orthopedics/Orthopedic Sports Center since 1999. He is also a professor at St. John's University.

What is your Job?

I am a physical therapist with a specialty in orthopedics and sports medicine. I graduated from St. John's University and attended graduate school at University of Mary in Bismarck for my Master's and St Scholastica for my Doctorate. I am a therapist at St. Cloud Orthopedics.

Why did you choose physical therapy?

Physical therapy allowed me the ability to serve people by helping them return to their previous activity level. I work to improve my patient's function and promote a quicker recovery to their daily activities. My patients are all ages from young to old. I treat from head to toes and everything in between.

What makes your job rewarding?

Watching a patient meet their goals creates more passion in me to help others. Patients have many goals such as walking, hugging their grand kids, returning to work or to be back on the field for a professional sports team. They are all equally important in my eyes.

What is the biggest change you have seen over the past years in your profession?

I have seen an increase in total knees, hips and shoulders due to the active lifestyle of the baby boomer generation. They are wearing out their joints earlier and want to return back to their active lifestyle. Therefore, joint replacement has been big in the last few years. In addition, the increase in female participation in sports has led to more injuries to females. I think we are starting to correct this sooner with early education on more effective training and injury prevention.

What was your first experience in musky fishing?

My college roommate took me to Bone Lake in WI and I had a low 40 inch follow on a M and G spinnerbait. The fish didn't bite but I was hooked from then on.

What was your most memorable day musky fishing?

One evening on Lake Vermillion I caught a 50" and 51" fish. Everything came together that night, moon rise, incoming front, wind etc. It was one of those special times on the water when everything was going and you were there to be a part of it.

If you only could take 3 lures to fish for a week at your favorite lake, what would they be?

Tough one...Blue/silver Cowgirl, black 8" reef hawg, and black/red pacemaker..

Next in would be a 10" weighted Suick walleye color that I got from Mike Ruff and #5 blue fox vibrax in black.

Why are you a St. Cloud MI member?

The lasting friendships I have made over the last 15 years are the biggest reason I am a part of the chapter. I have learned so much and fished with so many members. The knowledge that I have gained and shared from our members is priceless. We have some of the most knowledgeable musky anglers ever, right here in our club. Not only are they knowledgeable but they are the most generous and humble people and share their time and talent with others. I am honored and excited to be a part of this active club and look forward to the future of muskie fishing in our area and state.

WEBMASTER. By Tom Ardolf

July 2015 Webmaster Report

FaceBook: As I write this, we are up to 394 LIKES, a gain 12 over the past month. It's been interesting to see where our LIKES are coming from – I think it is just as much from outside MN as it is from local people in direct contact with our membership. I use Facebook Insights to track our reach, and while there are a lot of ups and downs, we seem to do very well compared to other chapters in MN.

Cafepress: No news for this month.

Web Site: I've got the formatting going for the Lunge Log entries, so I hope the chapter members support the efforts of Muskies, Inc. to gather the data that the Lunge Log provides. This is important research data, and the secondary benefit of seeing the results of hard efforts by our members makes it a double win. PLUS, have you taken the time to look at Lunge Log entries before going to a new lake? It can provide some extraordinary info, and will increase your odds of boating a fish. Or, take a look at the lakes that you do frequent, and see what others are boating.....

Other: The position of VP of Finance/Treasurer for Muskies, Inc. is still unfilled. If someone would be interested, please contact me.

Our region's representatives were not on the last M.I. Board call, so I'll share a couple of things. One is that membership has stabilized and, indeed, we may be seeing a trend in gaining members. More will be revealed as the months pass.

Muskies, Inc. is starting to write some "Best Practices" guidelines. These are simple documents that summarize shared experiences from chapters across the country on events and practices that have served other chapters well.

Muskies, Inc. will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2016!!! What MI has done to help this sport is inestimable, and we are the beneficiaries of some extraordinary efforts of dedicated musky hunters. We are the newest generation of these altruistic fishermen, and have our calling. However, we can also take a little break from our work and celebrate, and the 50th anniversary celebration will be our chance to do it. There will be a Saturday evening celebration at a hotel near Ridgedale, and I hope everyone from our chapter considers taking an evening to journey to this event to meet others just like you that love this sport just like you do, and participate in the event.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Chapter.

TOM ARDOLF

Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

By Joe Schulte

I wanted to send a note to the membership of encouragement in all the great things they are doing. I enjoy reading the newsletter and seeing Eric and Aaron, Bruce and so many members involved in good things for the community.

I simply wish I could be more involved, but other commitments, particularly in the spring, keep me from volunteering more than I would like to.

I did want to give you and the membership an update on that garbage can project that you supported a few years back. I have been able to keep up with maintaining the removal of trash, and I have to say that is genuinely made a difference on the shorelines of the Mississippi in Sartell. Anglers take the time to clean up, I take three 55 gallon garbage bags out of there per year that would normally sit among the rocks and eventually move downstream.

There's been a learning curve, including cutting holes in the bottom of the barrel and the bags for drainage, stagnant water makes for a pretty awful smell :-)

Anyway its one small way I can contribute on my own time, and it's been good for the kids to feel like they are making a difference.

Best regards on your summer!

Joe

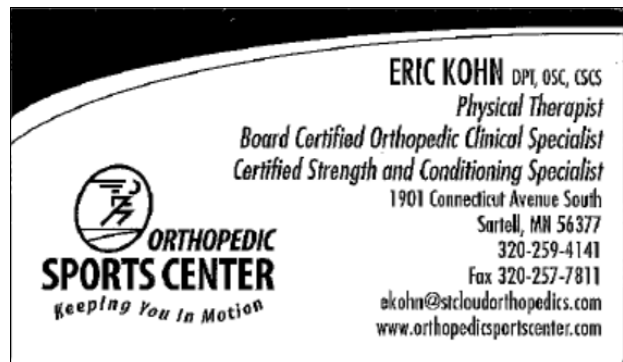
PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

Not a lot new this month. The DNR continues to work towards a method of improved northern pike management that will be acceptable to the public. We will stay closely involved in this process and let you know of any developments.

They are also getting closer to moving forward with official proposals for stocking several new muskie waters. This is pretty exciting!!

We are now into the heart of summer, with hot days, warm water, and active muskies. Please remember that this is the time when muskies are most susceptible to the stresses of being caught. The high water temps of mid-summer amplify the harmful effects of fighting and being handled. There is no other time when you are as likely to see a muskie suffer post-release mortality as you are right now. Please do everything you can to minimize the amount of time you handle these fish. Make sure your release tools are always easily accessible BEFORE you begin fishing. Also, remember that the bigger the fish are even more fragile than the rest.

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Eric



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT · · · · · By Nate Rose

In July we added 1 new member, Karen Bowley! Please welcome her to the club if you see her. Up for renewal we've got Aaron Meyer in August. The easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website (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.

CONTEST REPORT · · · · · By Nate Rose

Contest Standings July 30, 2015

| CURRENT STANDINGS | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Division | Name | # of Fish | Points | Largest |
| Men's Masters | Bryan J Thompson | 1 | 16 | 42.00 |
| Men's | Alex Lauer | 9 | 161 | 50.50 |
| | Nathan Rose | 5 | 87 | 48.50 |
| | Eric W Poissant | 4 | 56 | 47.00 |
| | Thomas Ardolf | 2 | 40 | 47.00 |
| | Tom Agnew | 1 | 38 | 45.00 |
| | Chris Paye | 2 | 24 | 40.00 |
| | Troy A. Schmitz | 1 | 24 | 49.50 |
| | Eric Kohn | 1 | 16 | 42.00 |
| | Justin Sharer | 1 | 5 | 30.50 |
| LUNKER OF THE MONTH | | | | |
| Month | Name | Length | Lake | |
| June | Thomas Ardolf | 47.00 | Mille Lacs | |
| | Eric W Poissant | 47.00 | Alex | |
| July | Alex Lauer | 50.50 | Mille Lacs | |

Contest Report



We have 27 fish registered already which is great to see after only two months. Alex got a 50.5" fish on Mille Lacs which took luncker of the month for July. He also raked up a number of other fish in July. Congrats. A number of other members logged fish including Ryan Schmitz getting a 49.5" and Tom Agnew getting a local river 45". I made it up to Lake of the Woods and caught four including a 48.5 and a 46.5. The fishing up there was excellent! Feel free to share stories or pictures of your fish so I can include it in the contest report. As always good luck to everyone that hits the water.

Just a reminder, I've heard the water temps have hit 80 so take care of the fish if you hook up. Take a quick picture and get them back in the water as soon as you can.

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PARTNER DEVELOPMENT • • • • • By Ron Sanders

At our most recent Board Meeting, we made a decision expand the Annual Partnership Program by integrating Sponsorship and Advertising Sales. This will allow us to seek revenue at several different levels of Sponsorship while discussing the opportunities to fit the need of our prospective supporters. This area, in addition to our Annual Banquet, is a major element of fund raising and could add significant operating contributions. If you know a Business that could benefit with the exposure of Advertising in on our Web and in the "The Release", please let me know. The Ad rates are VERY affordable starting as low as \$40 a year (Business Card) to a Full Page at \$200!

We will continue to qualify prospects to be our Annual Business Partners while pursuing short term opportunities.

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