

# THE RELEASE

OCTOBER 2015

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**MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2015 7:30 pm**

**WAITE PARK AMERICAN LEGION**

**SPEAKER: STEVE MAROD**

**Little Falls Fisheries Specialist**

**TOPIC: Local Muskie Fisheries and Stocking**

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

I would like to welcome our new members to the chapter and hope you enjoy it as much as I do. Don't forget to show up at our membership meetings, and above all if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask. Our chapter has always been known to share info and help out with anything that we can.

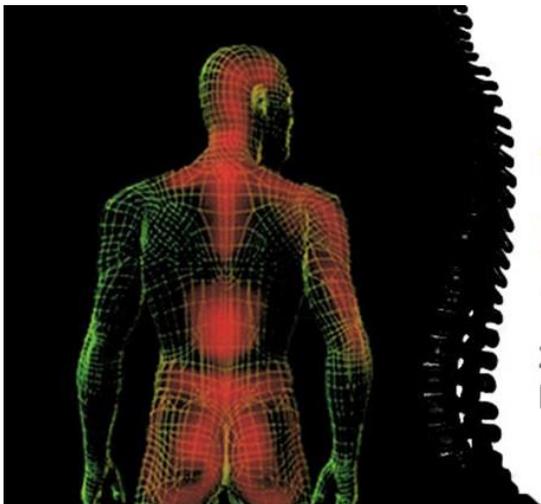
A large thank you goes to Ryan Hoffman who set up our outing on Lobster Lake. Also to everyone who showed up to participate.

With fall coming and cool temps right around the corner the fish should really start to go. Dress warm and be safe.

Please do not forget to check us out on Facebook and our Website. Have a wonderful October!

*Bruce*

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**OUTING'S CHAIRMAN . . . . .By Ryan Hoffman**

**Lobster Lake Outing** Thank you to everyone who attended the club outing on Lobster Lake on the 26th, the day was a huge success! 13 people fished from 5 boats that were a mix of club members who brought friends (hopefully potential new members!) and a club member from the Fargo chapter in my boat for the day. When we met at the launch at 7 we collected \$10 from anyone who wanted to participate in the big fish derby - almost everyone wanted in so the pot was \$120! It was previously decided that half the pot would go to the person who caught the biggest fish, the other half would go back to the club for future outings.....keep reading for who won the pot!

For me it was truly an adrenaline rush when everyone was launching and heading out for the day, I was giddy with excitement and I had never even been on Lobster before. The excitement had me hammering down on the throttle enough that my motor alarm went off and my motor started smoking half way across the lake! Whoops, not good! Long story short, this caused us to re-think the plan for the morning and after my motor cooled off we found the problem which was a quick fix and we were good to go. After getting around with the trolling motor and fishing a few spots (still moved 2 fish!) we headed to our original destination.

I shared that about my motor because I think it ended up being a blessing in disguise as it delayed us getting to the spot that ended up showing us two giants just as the major began. I was fishing with my friend Jon from Fargo and new club member Justin Sharer was fishing out of the middle of my boat throwing a big topwater that Jon moved a fish on earlier in the morning when a big green submarine appeared right behind his bait! She appeared to be coming in hot but flared off at the boat. Great encounter though and Justin considered the day a success!

About 30 minutes later something happened that I feel very humbled and proud to have been a part of....Justin was bringing in the same top water when I heard him say "fish"! I looked down and saw a giant head coming out from under the boat and she just kept getting bigger as she came to the top and smashed his bait in the 8! I dropped my rod, grabbed the net, and scooped up 51" of thrashing muskie that was cause for serious celebration!!

Board member Nate Rose and his brother even got to join in as they weren't too far away when the fish went in the net and they came over to see what all the commotion was about. It's not often you get pictures from the perspective of another boat when a muskie is caught and Nate grabbed his phone and got some great pictures!

Sharing in Justin's excitement, seeing the look on his face, and hearing him tell the story throughout the day (a few dozen times....hahaha) will go down in the books as one of my best moments in muskie fishing. Anything that happened after that for the day was just a bonus. To hear more details you'll have to come to the next club meeting and hear them from Justin himself and watch the video as it was all captured on GoPro!

Many fish were seen in the morning by every boat and a total of 4 fish were caught during the outing. I'll note that none of the fish caught were by the veteran fisherman! The 4 were caught by new members Justin Sharer, Scott Wold, and one potential new member - Justin's brother who goes by "Bubs"! Bubs just bought the boat he was fishing out of about 2 weeks prior to the outing and he not only caught his first fish - a beautiful 38", he also got his second later that night, a fat 41"! His new boat (without a graph!!!) was the hot boat for the day as new member Scott Wold also got his first fish after dark - a healthy 38" fish! The 38 capped off a 3 fish day in the new boat! I imagine the hour drive home that night for the 3 of them was pretty awesome.

The day was truly a success on all levels, the weather was great, food and comradery was fantastic at lunch, fish were caught, and new memories and friends were made - which is what being a member of SCMI is all about. Remember the pot of money? Winning with the 51" giant - Justin Sharer! At the end of the day I could not get Justin to accept his half of the \$120 so I already have an idea in my head on what to do with his money to ensure he really ends up with his winnings! I'm kicking around the possibility of trying to set up a late season outing on lake Alexander in November, more to come!

Ryan





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**PARTNER DEVELOPMENT AND ADVERTISING** · · · · By Ron Sanders

Thanks to efforts of our Board, once again we have a NEW Business Partner for the Month.

In the Bait and Tackle Category, we signed Stop Light Bait, Tackle & Guns to build a mutual beneficial for the coming year and hopefully way into the future. Stop Light's live bait is naturally aerated with well water, meaning that your minnows and leaches are fresher. We bag with oxygen at no extra charge, and pre-sort jumbo and large leaches, guaranteeing a more consistent product. Donnie and Laurie Hansen started Stop Light Bait, Tackle & Guns almost 30 years ago, and built a reputation as THE PLACE for serious anglers to come before they hit the water. And now, Aaron Kreller is taking it to the next level. It is the only PLACE to find those highly valued Suckers as we enter the Fall bite.

In order to give each of our dedicated Business Partners focused opportunities with the purchasing power of our Members and Followers, we are only seeking Partners within any single Category. At this writing our Category Business Partners include Stony Point Resort (Lodging on Cass Lake), Bristow's Kawasaki, Polaris, (4 Wheel, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles) and now Stop Light Bait (Bait and Tackle). We have prospects almost ready to announce in the New Car and Truck Sales Category, Batteries Category, Tires Category, and Crafts Category, and Fitness Category.

The opportunity with Stop Light Bait is the perfect example of how the entire SC MI Team can work together to grow our Advertiser base. The owners responded to a Contact Request on our Website, Bruce/Ken/Tom passed the lead on to me, I made the final pitch and sale, and Tom closed the loop. That is TEAM Selling. If you will get us an open door, we can take it from there.

# LOOKING FOR DEAL ON ROD AND REEL.

I received a call from the mother of a past member ( Mike Zabinski) that passed away a while back. All of his equipment is no longer around and she would like to get an outfit in the \$100 to \$150 range for Christmas for her grandson in college. If anyone has anything please let me know. Thanks in advance for any help to get another young person involved in this sport.

Mike Ruff 320-253-3261 ruffraddogs@gmail.com



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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT · · · · · By Nate Rose

In September we added Ryan Hoffman's family to our club which is great to see. There were no drops this month. Up for renewal we've got Sveinar Larsen, Royce N Nies, Clifford C Peterson, Ron Crusier, Paul Amberg, Stephanie Amberg, Elysa Amberg, Lauren Amberg, Nicholas Amberg, and Nathan Rose in October. 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.

## CONTEST REPORT · · · · · Contest Standings September 29th, 2015

CURRENT STANDINGS					
Division	Name	# of Fish	Points	Largest	Average
MensMasters	Bryan J Thompson	4	52	42.00	40
Mens	Alex Lauer	16	304	50.50	45
	Eric W Poissant	13	216	51.00	43
	Nathan Rose	8	136	48.50	43
	Thomas Ardolf	2	40	47.00	46
	Troy A. Schmitz	2	39	49.50	45
	Justin Sharer	3	38	51.00	39
	Ken Schmitt	2	27	40.00	40
	Chris Paye	2	24	40.00	38
	Tom Agnew	1	19	45.00	42
	Eric Kohn	1	16	42.00	42

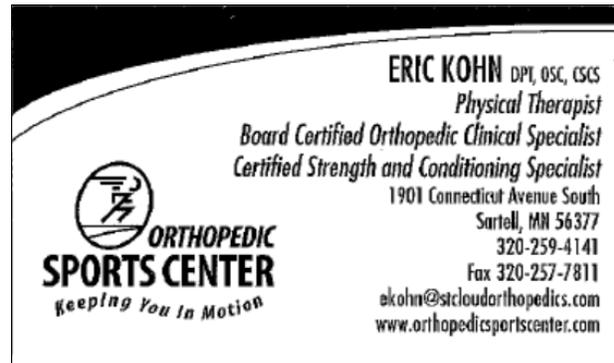
LUNKER OF THE MONTH			
Month	Member Name	Length	Lake
June	Thomas Ardolf	47.00	Mille Lacs
	Eric W Poissant	47.00	Alex
July	Eric W Poissant	51.00	Sugar
August	Alex Lauer	48.00	Leech
September	Justin Sharer	51.00	Lobster

By Nate Rose

The month of September was filled with lots of good reports. The blade bite is continuing to pick up and I've heard of multiple topwater fish being caught. The fish should be moving shallow with the water cooling so don't forget to check shallow sand areas when you make it out.

I'd just like to mention how great the September outing was on Lobster Lake on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Ryan Hoffman put together a fun event which included 5 boats and lots of stories. Justin Sharer stole the show with his 51" fish he caught in Ryan's boat. He also grabbed lunker of the month with that fish. Congrats!

Have a good month of October on the lakes! The overall traffic on the lakes goes down and the hunt for the big fall fish is right around the corner. Good luck and send me pictures or stories if you have them.



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

### October 2015 Webmaster Report

**FaceBook:** The all-important count of number of LIKES is 418 as I write the report – up just 9 for the month. However, posting the pics from the outing as this article went to print was truly a pleasure. Having new musky hunters boating their first fish and posting them was really a privilege. Plus the pics from earlier in the week were super cool, too!

**Cafepress:** No news for this month.

**Web Site:** Just keeping things up to date --- always willing to hear new suggestions!

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

I thought it was a great opportunity for the chapter to have Kevin Bushnick visit us for our September meeting. He's a hard worker for Muskies, Inc, and it showed in the extensive amount of revealing video that he shared with us. I hope chapter members feel their dues dollars go for some very useful projects with youth. I hope, too, that it provides us with ideas for events for youth around the St. Cloud chapter. These types of events can be life-changing experiences for the youth in our area.

There's a need for a regional representative, as Bruce shared as president in his report to the chapter at the September meeting. I'll share with you, other SCMI members, that my short tenure on the corporate board has been a good experience. Kevin Bushnick is a good example of the caliber of people that serve us on M.I.'s board, and you could be a voice for our region, if you'd consider it. Call me if you're interested, or even better, I'm sure Bruce would really like to hear from you about this and the V.P. of Finance position.

Mark your calendars for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Muskies, Inc!!!! On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, chapters from all around the nation will meet in Minnetonka for this great opportunity to share in unity with so many people dedicated to Muskies, Inc. Let's be a part of this, especially with it being so close to our chapter. Folks will be coming all the way from Washington State and the eastern and southern borders of the U.S. to be a part of this. Saturday will simply be a great celebration, with Sunday – Tuesday being the 3<sup>rd</sup> international symposium, which our chapter has voted to support. I hope many of my fellow SCMI members will be in attendance.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the chapter.

**TOM ARDOLF**

*Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.*

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

As I stated in last month's newsletter, the DNR has proposed a new set of lakes for muskie stocking. I don't have any new information on that yet, but we will be meeting with the DNR to discuss it very soon. Like the last round of proposed lakes, it's going to take a collective effort for us to see success in expanding our fisheries. I will be sure to inform everyone as soon as I have all the information.

It seems to never end.... Earlier this year, members of the Pelican Lake Association began an all out attack on the over-all state of muskie management in Minnesota. They basically dispute everything we know to be true about muskies and muskie stocking, claiming muskies eat all the other gamefish, destroy the balance of the lake ecosystem, ruin angling for other species, etc, etc. They have spread their lies to the Ottertail County COLA (Coalition Of Lake Associations) and gotten them on board as well. In fact, due in part to the DNR's lack of action on the matter, and the efforts of some known anti-muskie legislators, this thing has grown into a serious threat. It now involves the statewide MN Coalition Of Lake Associations, Lobbyists, Law firms, and Legislators.

I wouldn't be surprised to see legislation written, and/or lawsuits filed against the DNR. The intention is to stop any attempts to stock any new muskie waters, stop stocking of muskies in Pelican Lake, and revert the size limit to something like 36 inches. The bottom line is, this is a threat to the entire muskie fishery in Minnesota. This could get ugly. We need to try to get in front of it as much as possible. We are working to plot a course of action. As in several issues in the past, this is going to need a huge amount of participation from muskie anglers statewide, when the time come to send letters, emails, and phone calls to key people. Please stay tuned. I'll get any information out as quickly as I can.

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

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