

THE RELEASE

DECEMBER, 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: Tuesday, December 16, 2014

7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Pizza, Beverage, Pass a Wrapped Lure and Lure Swap)

Time on the WaterBy Bruce A. Kitowski, President

I really hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. With all the rushing we all do at this time of the year it is easy to forget the things that lie dearly in our hearts. Family and friends are truly the most important to us, but I am going to ask you to go outside the box this year and do something for a person or group that you do not know. We all get caught up in the cleaning, decorating, and cooking, but there are a number of people that don't even have a place to hang their head at night. Please say a prayer and maybe donate a little to help these people out on what is to be the greatest night of the year. God bless you and all of your families.

Well our November meeting was one of the best this year. Mike Kramer of Kramer Bros. Tackle really put on a show. He dug into the moon phases like I have never heard before. I now have a couple extra tools to work with. Thanks Mike. The Lake of the Month was featured by Nick DeBoer. He spoke on Lake Minnetonka. For those of you that don't know Nick, he puts a lot of fish in the boat, and many large ones. His understanding of the waters he fishes is incredible. Thanks for a very knowledgeable report.


Our December meeting is always packed solid with fun things. We will be voting on Board positions for the year 2015. Anyone that would like to run for a position, please contact myself or one of the board members. We will have a lure raffle, and a lure swap. You don't just have to bring lures, anything fishing or hunting is good. Every year we have a "Pass a Christmas Lure". This is where everyone brings a nice fishing lure wrapped in Christmas paper and you put it under the spinner tree that Sven Larsen brings. Then at some time in the evening everyone goes to the tree to grab a present that they did not bring and opens it. After that we will hold a Round Table discussion about the good and maybe not so good things that happened during the fishing season. Also we will have pizza and hand out drink tickets. If you haven't made any meetings this year, then this is the one you want to be at. Hope to see you there. Have fun, be safe, and open up your hearts to the people around you.

Bruce

2015 ANNUAL FISH DINNER


Our 2015 Annual Fish Dinner will be held on April 24, 2015. We are currently looking for prize items. Please contact Ken Schmitt (320-290-6272) if you are able to obtain donations for prizes and silent auction items.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Nate Rose

In November we added two new members and didn't lose any current members. Just a reminder, Steve Aeilts and Robert Koubsky still haven't renewed their membership yet. We hope to see him back for another year. Up for renewal we've got Ron Fenske the month of November. 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

Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. Well the open water season came to close early this year with the January like temperatures early in November. It looks like some people still made it out with some fish being logged early in the month. It's good to see because we are setting up for a long winter unless spring comes early in March.

Overall it was a good season for the contest members. We had 91 fish logged with 4 fish over 50". It seemed like the summer was slow for most but the fall bite really picked up which was good to see.

Congrats to Bryan, Eric, and Elysa for winning their division. We also have Eric's wife Kara who caught a 43" fish this fall and Cliff Peterson who is a lifetime member who caught a 45" fish this summer. The rest of the contest participants did really well averaging close to 45", which is impressive. Thanks to all who participated in this year's contest!

Contest Standings November 28, 2014

CURRENT STANDINGS					
Division	Name	# of Fish	Points	Largest	Average
Mens Master	Bryan J Thompson	7	157	51.5"	41"
Mens	Eric W Poissant	17	276	46.5"	42"
	Alex Lauer	8	145	50.5"	44"
	Thomas Ardolf	7	145	52"	46"
	Nathan Rose	6	109	49.5"	43"
	Troy A. Schmitz	5	96	48"	45"
	Joseph Lauer	4	69	44.25"	43"
	Donald Magney	3	57	46"	44"
	Eric Kohn	4	52	42"	39"
	Bruce A Kitowski	3	44	43"	40"
	Ken Schmitt	2	39	50"	45"
	Cliff Peterson	1	19	45"	45"
	Chad Schulzetenberg	2	16	35"	34"
Juniors	Elysa Amberg	15	154	48"	36"
	Ryan Schmitz	6	45	37"	33"
	Joshua Nielsen	1	11	36.5"	36.5"
Womens	Kara Poissant	1	17	43"	43"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH			
Month	Name	Size	Lake
June	Alex Lauer	47"	Alex
July	Donald Magney	46"	Alex
August	Eric Poissant	44.5"	Sugar
September	Alex Lauer	50.5"	Alex
October	Bryan J Thompson	51.5"	Minnetonka
November	Thomas Ardolf	52"	Alex



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

Wow. Winter is here. It sure brought a quick end to the muskie season. To say I'm disappointed would be an understatement. This year was the earliest ice-up that I've seen in the 20 years that I've been seriously chasing late fall muskies! Well, there's nothing we can do about it but let it go and start thinking about next year.

This brings up another disappointing topic. It's no secret that in the last 5-6 years the popularity of live-bait fishing for fall muskies has exploded in Minnesota. Personally, I've been using suckers in the fall for quite a long time. In my opinion, it's an effective option that doesn't harm the fish any more than artificial lures do, when used correctly.

What bothers me is the increasing number of muskie anglers illegally fishing with extra lines in the fall. My friends and I have been seeing this on a pretty frequent basis in the last couple years. It seems there's something about live-bait fishing that makes anglers think they can get away with cheating. Often, they are casting while running an extra line with a sucker. Sometimes it's just multiple suckers per angler. Either way it's illegal. It shouldn't be viewed as an extra opportunity, it should be viewed as cheating. If you call them out, most of these guys try to pretend they didn't know the law, but it's generally pretty obvious they're lying. And it's both resident, and non-resident anglers.

Our fish and game laws exist for good reason. There are hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women in Minnesota alone. Our natural resources are available and sustainable for all of us ONLY because of these laws! Cheating the system does nothing but cheat the future of our resources. We muskie anglers are generally the last die-hards on the water in late fall. It's easy to feel like you're so alone out there that nobody even notices you... But they do. Your fellow muskie anglers notice you. And all those property owners notice you from their homes and cabins- and many of them know the laws. An increasing number of these cheaters is making us all look bad.

It's time for us to clean it up. I encourage all of you have the Turn-In-Poachers phone number on speed dial and use it! I can tell you that the cabin owners are doing it. Let's all do our part. Respect the laws and respect THE FISH! Have fun, do it right, and when you land a trophy you can be proud of your accomplishment!

Thanks,
Aaron
MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair



<p>NEWSLETTER EDITORS Ken and Norine Schmitt 1208 8th Street South Waite Park, MN 56387 E-Mail to KENOR@JUNO.COM WEB E-MAIL: info@stcloudmuskies.com</p>

Lake of the Month By Sven Larsen

I want to give a big thanks to all the members who help with Lake of the Month this year. I especially want to thank Tom Agnew who gave us a great look at Deer Lake in October and then Nick DeBoer shared his knowledge about Lake Minnetonka in November. There is no Lake of the Month presentations in December or at our February meeting. Now is the time to start getting the Lake of the Month scheduled filled for next year. I have heard several positive comments about this part of our meeting from our members who really enjoy the presentations. In order to keep it going, I need volunteers to talk about a lake for 10-15 minutes and share your knowledge with our members. So, if you have an idea about a lake you would like to share with our group, please email me and I will get you on the 2015 schedule. Wishing everybody a wonderful fun filled holiday season and maybe a package with a hook or two under your tree.

Sven Larsen
svenandjudi@gmail.com

WEBMASTER. By Tom Ardolf

December 2014 Webmaster Report

Facebook: Ok, folks, I need some help!! I try to support all of our fellow chapters --- and I hope you do, too. So when I LIKED our neighbors to the north, the Brainerd Lakes Chapter, I noticed that they are at 428 LIKES today. Nice people, great chapter, many friends in that chapter. But..... can you help me get our LIKES up there, too? The Twin Cities Chapter is at 541 today, so the mark is high. As of the writing of this message to you, we are at 256. Yes, we gained 19 over the past month, so we're making progress. So, while you're contemplating Christmas presents this year, inviting your friends to LIKE our page would be a great gift for our chapter. These folks will be the ones that see the flyer coming out for our fish fry, so you're helping our chapter every time you INVITE your friends to LIKE our page!!!! Plus, I try to keep a fresh flow of information on it, and if you send me your pictures from this past summer, you'll be on the page, too!

Cafepress: No news for this month, but please think about SCMI products for Christmas!!!!

Web Site: I spent some time over the past month giving our web site a new look. I hope you take the time to visit it, look at how it flows and the information on it. Also, what do you think would be helpful for you to have on it? I use the web site for more static information, and Facebook for the items that are transitory.

Also, I'm looking for pictures from this year's fishing to create a photo album. You can either upload them from the web site, or simply forward your pictures to scmi.webmaster@gmail.com. Keep your eyes posted for new information on our chapter and meetings!

Tom Ardolf
Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.
Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com

EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL PARTNERSBy Ron Sanders

At this point, the Board and I are pleased to announce our first "Official 2015 Annual Partner" STONY POINT RESORT AND RV CAMPGROUND. We have completed a great amount of work in setting up the infrastructure to support the problem, without minimizing the appreciation that we have for all our Sponsors, some very long term. Any of those Sponsors are would like to update to an Annual Program, please contact me. It would be a pleasure and we certainly wish to continue our relationship.

Some of the amenities than an Annual Partner benefits from include, but is not limited to a "banner headline" on our Opening Page of our website, ability to cross market with us, Banners displayed at all club events, Ads in "the Release", 2015 Annual Partner decals for their door, windows to promote our relationship and obviously is anchored by our members and friends using their product or services.

I thank the Board for reaching out and exploring this opportunity. I believe the face of our Annual Partners Program will evolve in quick order and we serve the Club very well in upcoming years. A Special thanks to Tom Ardolf, for redoing the Website to accommodate this new category.

We have several other Partner prospects that we are working with.



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**COMBINATION JANUARY FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**



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Mike Kramer speaking at the November meeting.

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