

THE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: Tuesday, September 16, 2014

7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

If you only could bring three lures, what would you select?

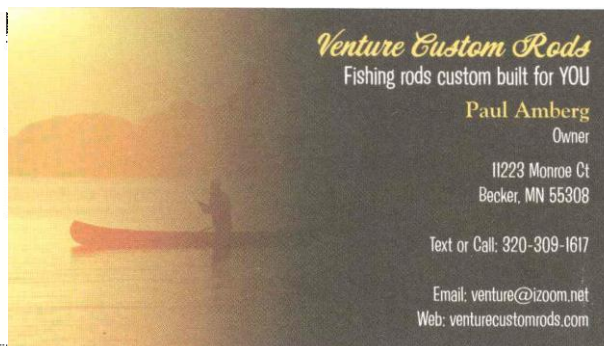
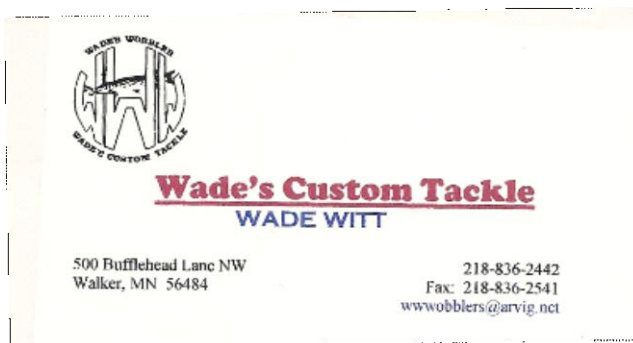
(Feel free to bring the lures if you like.)

Time on the WaterBy Bruce A. Kitowski, President

I am making this very brief this month because I missed the last meeting and have been out of contact this last month. I apologize for not being available to the board and/or members of the chapter. Family duties have taken over and there is just not enough time in the days to do everything. I would like to thank Ken Schmitt for running the meeting as acting President, and the entire Board of Directors for making sure that business was conducted as usual. I am hoping to settle back into things slowly and look forward to seeing everyone at a later date.

Please be safe on and off the water, life is much too short to not enjoy every minute with the people you love.

Bruce



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Corey Nazer 715-456-5531 www.NazeBaits.com



LAKE OF THE MONTH By Sven Larsen

Thank you Marc Jefferson for presenting White Bear Lake for us at the August meeting. I really enjoyed the way you presented successful patterns that we can try. For September we will be looking at another Metro Lake, Lake Minnetonka, and Nick DeBoer will present this for us. Nick spends a lot of time on this lake so it should be another great presentation. We are looking for a presenter and a lake for November so if anyone would like to volunteer, please let me know..

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Nate Rose

In August we didn't have any new members or anyone dropping. Just a reminder, Ken Anderson III and Douglas Budd still haven't renewed their membership yet. We hope to see them back for another year. Up for renewal we've got Bruce Bates and Melinda Rusin the month of 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 STANDINGS

CURRENT STANDINGS					
Division	Name	# of Fish	Points	Largest	Average
Mens Master	Bryan J Thompson	4	42	42"	36"
Mens	Eric W Poissant	7	120	46.5"	42"
	Donald Magney	3	57	46"	44"
	Nathan Rose	2	31	41.5"	41"
	Alex Lauer	1	21	47"	47"
	Troy A. Schmitz	1	14	40"	40"
	Chad Schulzetenberg	1	9	35"	35"
Juniors	Ryan Schmitz	6	45	37"	33"
	Joshua Nielsen	1	1	36.5"	36.5"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH			
Month	Name	Size	Lake
June	Alex Lauer	47"	Alex
July	Donald Magney	46"	Alex
August	Eric Poissant	44.5"	Sugar

Contest Report By Nate Rose

Hey everyone, September is right around the corner and the fishing should be picking up as the water cools. August proved to be a tough month for the club with only 7 fish being logged and nothing particularly big. I have heard of some nice fishing being caught the last couple days so hopefully our members catch some 50's!

Eric Poissant had a good month catching 4 fish and also had the luncker of the month with a nice 44.5" fish from Sugar. Bryan Thomson, Chad Schulzetenberg, and I were the only other members to log fish this month. I didn't hear any stories of the other fish caught by Bryan or Chad but my 41.5" fish ate boatside right as the clouds and wind moved in so pay attention to those weather changes.

The annual Cass trip is coming up in September and I am looking forward to staying up there again this year. It's always a fun trip so I hope to see you guys up there.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

Last night I attended another DNR Esox Workshop. The main topics of discussion for the last couple meetings have been potential new regulations to improve pike management, and thoughts on the current state of our muskie fisheries and a widespread perception that the quality of our populations is declining.

There's a lot of technical work being done to figure out the best way to solve the pike problem. Things are starting to take shape. We might see things move in the direction of managing pike in 3 defined zones, rather than with one statewide regulation. Pike populations differ greatly in different parts of the state. The goals are twofold: improve the balance of pike size structures while moderating exploding populations, and at the same time continuing to allow pike harvest to be an important part of our management.

What seems to be shaking out is that we need to put more protection on the size of pike that are harvested the most in order to actually produce more pike in that preferred size range. This would also help reduce small pike numbers and potentially produce more large pike as well. Initial possibilities revolve around expanding the bag

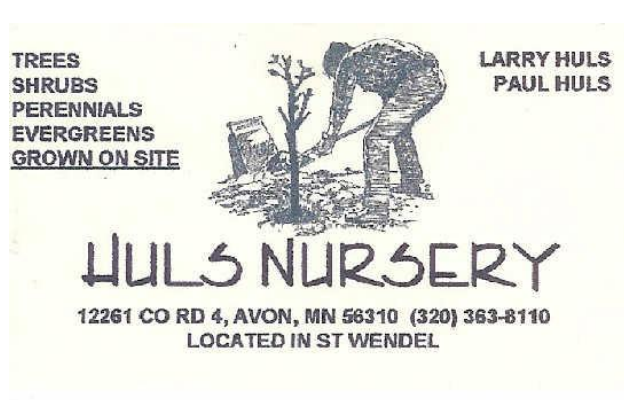
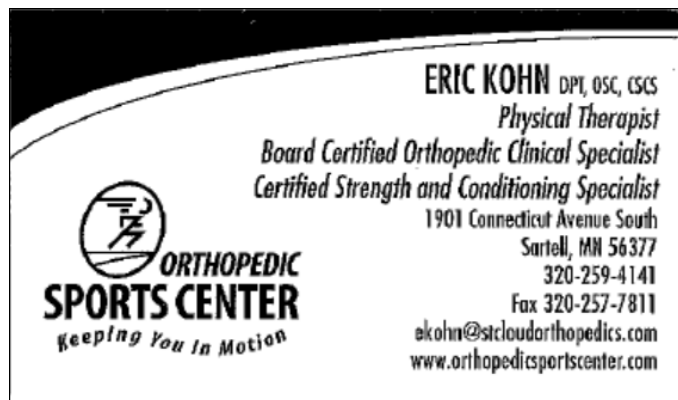
limit on pike under 22 inches and encourage significant harvest of those smaller fish while implementing a slot limit protecting pike from 22 inches up to possibly 25, 26, 27, or 28 inches.

On the muskie front, it seems that lake assessments are starting to show a trend that agrees with many anglers perception that muskie populations are starting to slip downward in many lakes across Minnesota. This is something that many of us have been telling the DNR for a couple years now. The DNR has started to take some real serious interest in understanding this situation.

Initial observations show that muskie stocking rates have varied greatly from lake to lake, and even within individual lakes. There's really been no consistency. There's also some evidence suggesting well established populations of big fish suppress the recruitment of younger fish regardless of how many are stocked. It may have also been an unforeseen mistake to stock lakes more heavily in their beginning stages as a "jumpstart". Initial stockings generally have very high survival which may lead to the population reaching a peak with lots of big fish having only a small age difference among them. Most of those fish then reach maximum age within a few years of each other, resulting in a sudden drop in fish numbers when those fish begin to die off. It would take a lot more space to explain the details of all this, but it seems to be coming together in a pretty logical manner. I also believe that much of this also coincided with the timing of the explosion in muskie fishing in MN. This explosion led to increased rates of harvest, and delayed mortality of muskies at the hands of thousands of new anglers not experienced in catching these big, fragile fish.

I think what will come out of this will be changes in the ways and rates we stock muskies. The goal will probably be to create fisheries that maybe don't spike quite as high, but also don't crash quite as far. A population with a more diverse age structure should produce that result.

Aaron Meyer
MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair



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

September 2014 Webmaster Report

With a very hectic month for me, trying to finally get a boat into the water, I didn't try anything new on the Facebook page or web site. The Facebook site gained **6** new likes after having a stellar month just 30 days before. As of the writing of this report, we're up to **227 LIKES**. I do hope everyone take a few minutes to invite their Facebook Friends to our site. You may have remembered my goal from last month:

Goal: The chapter with the greatest number that I can find, Twin Cities, has 469 Likes. Let's see if we can match or exceed that. If we do really well, we can then challenge MI's own site, which has 2,744, but heck, let's set our goals high!

Cafepress: We had one chapter member order some additional goods from the site. Obviously he was happy with the first round of products, as he placed that second order. There's a great selection of products on the site. As the cooler weather is about to begin, consider buying an SCMI sweatshirt or long sleeve t-shirt such as one of these. Or, we have a hoodie for about the same price.....

Web Site: Nothing notable on the web site, I just now have that task to keep the monthly stats up-to-date. Catch some fish and let us know!



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MORE COLORS AVAILABLE

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Logo
\$35.99

Tom Ardolf

Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.

Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com

EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL PARTNERSBy Ron Sanders

The Business Partnership proposal was once again presented to the Board to gain additional insight and review the modifications that were made as a result of the previous Board Meeting.

The new DRAFT included separate categories to partner, relative to type and size of Business. It now includes three (3) distinct areas of concentration consisting of MANUFACTURES, RETAILERS, AND SUPPORTERS. The entry Fees were established and an agreement of a minimum \$100 cash contribution was stipulated so we would always cover our costs imbedded in the Membership Benefits, while at the same time, welcoming a large percentage of Barter/Trade on an annual basis.

Approval was given to go forward with this program on a beta trial bases. I will pitch a candidate in each of the three classes, meet in person if possible, and determine what level of acceptance we receive. It is expected that this due diligence will further suggest modifications to the program as it stands.

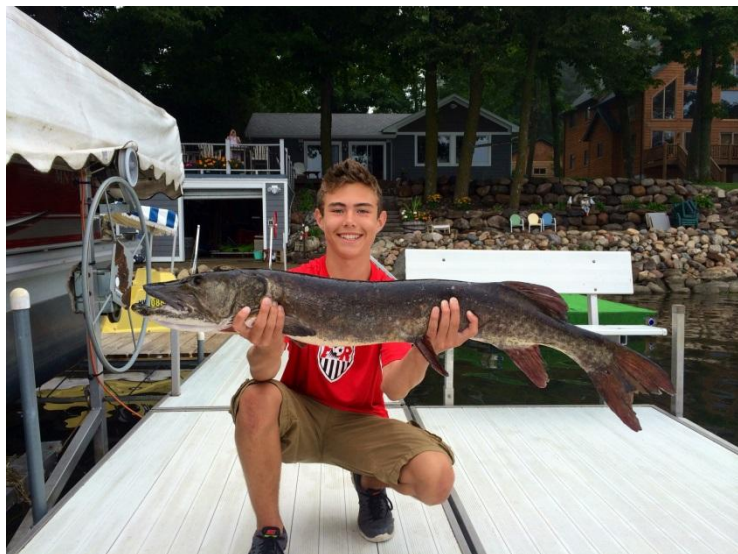
The results will be reported to the Board along with any modifications at the new Board Meeting. Hopefully, we also have our first three Business Partnership in hand.



A friend of mine's son, Dalton Hager (15), was up at his grandparents cabin on Sugar Lake August 16-17 and caught his first two muskies, one each day!! If life could always be that grand!!! Congrats Dalton
Ken Schmitt



First Muskie Caught – 42.5” on August 16th



Second Muskie Caught – 44.5” on August 17th

A nice 52” catch by Mitch Hoihjelle



**SEND US YOUR CATCH OR RELEASE PHOTOS TO
SHARE WITH OTHERS!!!**

Fall Get Together - 2014 By Dave Mendel mendjo1118@charter.net 320-293-6633

UPDATE 8/26/2014

Hi all,

With only a few weeks to go here is the final update of this year's event, so here's a schedule of events for the weekend.

Thursday:

Sea food buffet, 8:00 pm in the Lodge. (Bring your own sardines, smoked oysters etc. to share) If these flavored little fish don't suit your fancy, feel free to bring some other snack food. This will be a good opportunity to meet new members and discuss the days fishing successes

Friday:

Fish fry with all the fixens. 8:00pm sharp in the Lodge.

CLL will prepare an excellent meal and followed up with goodies from our Desert Chics, Bonnie and Linda.

The cost of the Friday meal is \$10.00 which includes dinner and a chance in a drawing of attendance prizes, with one lucky person taking home a Knipex cutter.

Also there will be a camp fire to gather around most evenings for more story telling.

If you plan to attend please find the information below to contact the resort.

Hope to see you there

FALL GET TOGETHER 2014

We are proud to announce the dates for our 2014 Fall Get Together.

It will be held from September 11th through September 14th at Cass Lake.

Back again, by popular demand, Cass Lake Lodge will be hosting our event.

CLL 218-335-6658 www.casslakelodge.com

The camping and cabins rates for this year will be;

RV Camping / W full hook ups	\$36.00 / Night
Cabins	\$40.00 / Night / Person
Boat Slips in the Harbor	\$10.50 / Day

This year the resort will be saving 3 cabins for our event, and the use on the 'Lodge' for the Thursday night seafood buffet.

The Cass Lake area is very busy this time of the year, so these cabins will only be held until August 15th 2013 at which time they will be opened up to the public. Please make your reservations early to ensure a spot.

CLL has built a new and much improve harbor that will serve us much better.

If you need a boat slip, please request one at the time you make reservations.

Camping is in limited supply and rented on a first come first served basis.

If you plan to camp make your reservations early.

When making reservations, be sure to mention that you're part of the St. Cloud Muskies Inc. group

Once again we will be charging a \$10.00 fee which includes a Friday night meal catered by CLL and a chance to win a fine attendance prize. Plus everyone attending the Friday meal will receive a lure as part of the drawing.

We hope you can join us for a great weekend of fishing on one of Minnesota's premier Muskie waters.

If you have any questions please contact me at,

Dave Mendel
320 - 293 - 6633



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