

THE RELEASE

OCTOBER 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: Tuesday, October 21, 2014

7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

SPEAKER: George Selke

TOPIC: Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance

Time on the Water By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

Hello everybody, if you don't know yet fall is here and it's time to rumble. Fall is the best time of the year to not only put numbers in your boat, but also that fish of a life time. As the water gets cooler please take precautions and care in what you do. I take the Fall very serious now, but there was a time in my life when I was young man that I thought I was indestructible. I hit the water one very cold October afternoon in Wisconsin. It was truly a blessing that I was not fishing alone that day as I had often done. My partner got me out of the water and back to the cabin. This was a very large wake up call for me. Try not to have something bad happen before you think about safety.

This coming month we will be having our annual Fall Outing on Lake Alexander on October 18th. I hope to see many of you out there. Read more on this in the newsletter. Suckers, cold water, and camaraderie is what it is all about. Throw a fish or two in there and you have a perfect day.

Remember to party when you get there, and live to fish another day. Good fortune on the water with the remainder of the year.

Bruce

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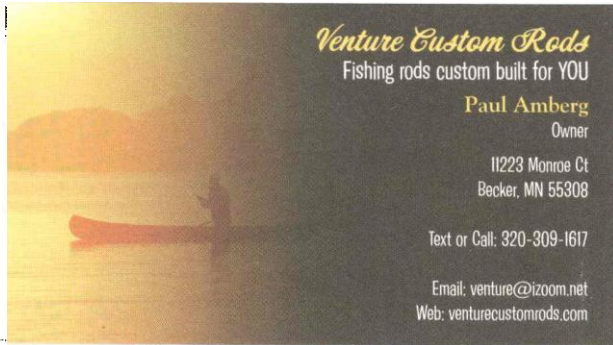
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LAKE OF THE MONTH By Sven Larsen

This Month Tom Agnew will be telling us about Deer Lake near Grand Rapids. From the Map I saw of this Lake there is a ton of structure so I am looking forward to Tom's presentation on how to fish it. For the upcoming months the schedule is open for Lake of the Month presentations. If you would like to do a presentation about a lake you have some interest in, please contact me and I'll get you on the schedule.

Lake Alexander Fishing Outing

For the last few years our club has set a date in October to have a group fishing outing on Lake Alexander near Randall. This year that date is Saturday, October 18th. Some of the guys will meet at the west landing at sunrise to start the day but you can come whenever you want. We will meet at the Castaway restaurant on the North Side of the lake at noon to share fish stories and a little lunch. We keep this an open schedule so fish as long as you like in the afternoon. Hope to see you all at this year's outing.

Sven Larsen
320-252-2594

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Nate Rose

In September we didn't have any new members or anyone dropping. Just a reminder, Bruce Bates and Melinda Rusin still haven't renewed their membership yet. We hope to see them back for another year. Up for renewal we've got Ryan Hoffman and Marc Jefferson the month of October. 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.



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

CONTEST STANDINGS October 1, 2014

CURRENT STANDINGS					
Division	Name	# of Fish	Points	Largest	Average
Mens Master	Bryan J Thompson	3	51	44"	42"
Mens	Eric W Poissant	12	199	46.5"	42"
	Alex Lauer	5	96	50.5"	45"
	Nathan Rose	5	85	47"	42"
	Donald Magney	3	57	46"	44"
	Ken Schmitt	2	39	50"	45"
	Bruce A Kitowski	3	44	43"	40"
	Eric Kohn	3	39	42"	39"
	Troy A. Schmitz	2	36	48"	44"
	Joseph Lauer	1	18	43.5"	43.5"
	Chad Schulzetenberg	1	9	35"	35"
Juniors	Ryan Schmitz	6	45	37"	33"
	Joshua Nielsen	1	11	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
September	Alex Lauer	50.5"	Alex

Contest Report By Nate Rose

Hey everyone, well September proved to be a great month with a number of fish caught by our members. Great work everyone! The night bite seemed to really turn on with a number of fish being caught later at night with the water cooling. The water temps are down to around 60 now with the cooler nights, so that will get the sucker bite going soon!

Alex Lauer had a great month with 4 fish logged including the lunker of the month with a 50.5" fish from Alex, congrats. Eric Poissant had another good month catching some nice fish. I also had one great night with a 44.5" and a 47 10 minutes apart. I would also like to mention Ken Schmitt caught a really nice 50" fish in September, nice job.

Kenneth J. Schmitt
Insurance Agent

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Chapter Representative By Ron Fenske

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall muskie bite and that you had a good summer fishing experience. Boy, where did the time go!

It's been a slow muskie season for me, but I have been blessed with a couple muskies. This was my year to try big surface lures. I have always liked using surface lures and with my purchase of three big new lures... I was pumped. After a couple of months banging these big lures around I didn't find any magic in them, and it is not for lack of effort.

Pictured below --- bottom to top: Lake X - Canon Ball, Musky Junky. Big Mama - Psycho Sis'tr as compared to the normal size Top Raider.

I have also included a picture of Mike Ruff with a nice fish he hooked with a new lure he developed this year. Ask him about his new top water and trolling lures.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

I have two things to tell you about this month that I want everyone to take part in. These are things that require ongoing participation, and will directly impact muskie management in Minnesota.

The first is a tagging program being done by the DNR. There are fish in Lake Bemidji, Minnetonka, White Bear, and Bald Eagle, with external floy tags. These tags were put in place so that the DNR can get data on things like survival, growth rates, and rate of capture/recapture. This is vital data that may have significant influence on the methods and rates for stocking muskies in the future. The DNR needs our participation. If you

catch a tagged fish, the DNR wants to know it! Unfortunately, it seems many anglers are either unaware of this, or just simply forget to take part. There have been pictures of tagged fish popping up all over the place, yet those fish have not been reported. These photos have been on various web locations, social media sites, in local and national magazines, and even on TV -with obvious visible tags! We need to do better!

If you fish these lakes, or know anyone who does, spread the word and start paying attention. The tags look like a small piece of coated wire, maybe 2 inches long. They are located near the dorsal fin on a muskie's back. They often get covered in algae and slime, making them harder to see. But they hang out far enough that if you look for it you will see it. They have a number on them.

If you fish these lakes, please look for these tags. You can see the tag while the fish is upright in the net. Wipe of the algae and write down the tag number, length of the fish, date, and what lake it was caught from. Report this to the local DNR office. Simple yet vitally important.

The second effort we all need to work on also relates to the future of muskie stocking in MN. This one could directly influence the decisions coming from the DNR muskie technical committee. Last month I told you about the discussions we've been having with the DNR about the state of our muskie fisheries, and how many of these populations seem to be dwindling. There could be some significant changes coming to the methods and rates that some of our lakes are stocked.

At the Esox Workshops, we have regular contact with the technical committees and a few of the involved DNR staff, but we don't have much direct contact with the local Fisheries Offices. This is where we need to get more involved. Look up your local fisheries office, or the local office nearest to the lakes you fish, and let them know how you feel about the fishery. Let them know how much you enjoy the muskies in their management area. VERY importantly, let them know if you see trends in the fishery regarding population numbers and size of the fish. Trust me on this- every fisheries office with a muskie lake in it's management area has heard from people who hate muskies, think there is way too many muskies, and feel they are destroying the lake. We need to make sure they hear the positive side of it too. **And its crucial that they hear from anglers if the population faltering.** The DNR technical committee has already recognized that many lakes have not been stocked very consistently and that some lakes likely need to receive more muskies. It might come down to convincing the Local Managers of this. So look them up and contact them now.... and continue to make contact from time to time, sharing your concerns and letting them know that good stable muskie populations are extremely important to Minnesota's anglers.

We've helped make some really huge, positive changes in Minnesota's muskie management. These two seemingly less urgent matters could really have huge, long-term impacts if we just make the effort. So get to it!!

Thanks,
Aaron
MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair



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WEBMASTER. By Tom Ardolf

FaceBook: Please keep INVITING your friends to our Facebook page. We are up to 232 LIKES. I do hope everyone take a few minutes to invite their Facebook Friends to our site. You may have remembered my goal:

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!

We need another 246 LIKES to tie them, but remember, a couple months ago we garnered almost one hundred from just one person!!! When you go to our page, FaceBook will automatically give you a list of friends for you to invite --- just click the button by their name and that's all you have to do!

I also put up a post on keeping suckers alive for fall fishing. Anyone with information, please share it with everyone. I brought up at the meeting about pooling an order, but I haven't heard from anyone on this topic so far....

Cafepress: No news for this month.

Web Site: Nothing notable on the web site, but I have a sneaking suspicion that the hard work being done by Ron Sanders will have an effect on our web site.....

Tom Ardolf

Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.

Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com

EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL PARTNERSBy Ron Sanders

We have begun to roll out this Program on a Beta Test basis. Our first Partner to join us for the 2014-2015 period is Stony Point Resort and RV Campground on Cass Lake. Given this opportunity, we are developing the internal infrastructure to support the Program over the coming years. As they say "the devil is in the details" as we now have a need to develop Certificates/Plaques for our Partners, developed a Donor Form so everyone understands what they receive from our relationship, and making the additions to our Web Site. There are many more smaller items that must be part of our process with standardization. This was expected and the was the rational to just doing a couple of Beta tests while we address these items.

We're learning a lot particularly where we are trying to tie a National Manufacturer into the program. There needs to be a local tie in on this approach because of our limited reach. Partnering with a Retailer and a National Manufacturer is more likely. We continue to have optimism on this program.



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Fall Get Together Wrap Up- 2014

By Dave Mendel mendjo1118@charter.net

Our fall outing on Cass Lake is now in the books with some great times and memories.

Again this year we had a mix of weather. A front that went through on Wednesday left behind it NW winds and daytime temps in the 40's, but it didn't shut down the fish.

Thursday there were 4 Muskies caught, a 30" for Marc Jefferson, Nate Rose boated a 38", and I had a 34 and a 43 incher. Friday morning brought the same cold cloudy weather with 2 more fish in the boat. The 'Ole Man' Mike Ruff caught a 42" beauty, and I lucked into a 47 incher. Saturday morning the wind switched to the south and really kicked up with gusts as high 30 mph but a 47" fish hit the net for Sam Larsen

Thursday evening we had our 'sea food buffet' that was attended by all that were in the resort at the time. We enjoyed sardines, smoked oysters, and smoked salmon complemented by cheese, crackers.

As in the past, CLL did a great job preparing our Friday nite fish dinner with all the fish, potatoes, and beans we could eat. Everyone there received an attendance prize of a lure, and Marc Jefferson was the lucky winner of a Knippex cutter.

A special thanks goes out to Bonnie and Linda, the 'Desert Chics' for the delicious treats they brought to the Friday nite dinner, and shared around the camp fire Sat. evening. This year's treats were 'Fried Ice Cream, Brownies, Pumpkin Roll, and another delicious bar. Oh they take such good care of us in the sweets dept.

Dave Mendel
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