

THE RELEASE

OCTOBER 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: Tuesday, November 18, 2014

7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

SPEAKER: Mike Kramer of Kramer Baits

Predicting Feeding Windows and How To Fish Them Correctly

Time on the Water By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

I would like to take a moment to welcome all the new members that have joined our chapter this last year. We truly appreciate that you have chose us to be part of your fishing enthusiasm. I would also like to invite you to our membership meetings. There are a lot of things going on each and every month. There is something for everyone. Check out our website and join us on Facebook. Each and every member is special to this chapter and we are what we are because of you.


Thank you to Tom Agnew for putting on a fantastic report on Deer Lake for the Lake of the Month presentation. Tom really put it out there and everyone could definitely tell he knew what he was talking about. If there is anyone that would like to talk about a specific lake that they fish or just know about please let us know, we would love to have you give a small presentation.

Our guest speaker for the October meeting was George Selcke. George has been a close friend of mine for a long time and it was great to have him speak to our members. George spoke on the Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance (MMPA) and also the Hugh Becker Foundation. He did such an outstanding job explaining how everything began and how it all works. The muskie world can be very thankful that we have a man like this in our corner always looking out for the best interests at hand. Thanks again George.


We are looking forward to our November meeting with speaker Mike Kramer of Kramer Baits. Mike will have a number of topics to speak on, and it is sure to be a fun fact filled evening. Don't forget about our Christmas Party in December. Hope to see many of you there. Stay warm, be safe on the water, and most of all don't forget to thank your NET-MAN!

Bruce

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MIKE KRAMER OF KRAMER BAITS. Mike will discuss feeding windows, figure-8, the Detroit Lakes area and the Big Fork/Little Fork river areas. Make sure you join us at the meeting on November 18th for great info from Mike.

Lake Alexander Fishing Outing – Fun on the Water for Kara

By Eric Poissant

The morning started out awesome, our favorite weather - cloudy and calm. Kara, who is five months pregnant at this time was taking turns with me casting and watching the sucker. We had a nice follow on blades right away and then they started sniffing the sucker. One grabbed it and swam down but we couldn't see anything and sure enough, it let go. Things got exciting fast with more follows on the Hellhound and on bucktails and THEN IT HAPPENED. Kara's clicker screamed and the bobber vanished. We decided not to waste a moment and as soon as the clutch was engaged followed by an epic hook-set Kara's rod was doubled over! Our clip-on bobber floated up quite a ways out so I knew she had a great fight ahead of her. As she got it near us it had dove under the boat and the rod hit the gunnel, so I reached over and helped her loosen the drag hoping nothing would break. It made a second run and really resisted the net but through all of the laughing and splashing I scooped her up! The photos and release went perfectly and we were walking on air the rest of the day. Kara couldn't believe how much pressure that fish created and just how hard it pulled. We cruised in to Castaways to meet the guys for a great lunch and some good stories.



Releasing for another day!!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Nate Rose

In October we didn't have any new members or anyone dropping. Just a reminder, Marc Jefferson still hasn't renewed his membership yet. We hope to see him back for another year. Up for renewal we've got Nathan Rose, Robert Koubsky, Steve Aeilts, Ron Cruser, Paul Amberg, Stephanie Amberg, Elysa Amberg, Lauren Amberg, and Roger Theiler 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.

Contest Standings October 30, 2014

CURRENT STANDINGS					
Division	Name	# of Fish	Points	Largest	Average
Mens Master	Bryan J Thompson	5	96	51.5"	45"
Mens	Eric W Poissant	15	243	46.5"	41"
	Alex Lauer	7	127	50.5"	44"
	Nathan Rose	6	109	49.5"	43"
	Troy A. Schmitz	5	96	48"	45"
	Thomas Ardolf	4	75	47.5"	44"
	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"
	Joseph Lauer	2	36	44.25"	43"
	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"

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

Contest Report By Nate Rose

Hey everyone, October was a great month with 29 fish logged out of the 84 all year. The fish sure like the cooler water temps. The water temps are down around 50 degrees now which has kicked the sucker bite into gear. As always casting baits still works, but a number of people are dragging suckers around the lake. They are more expensive and harder to come by for sure. Well we are down to the last month of the season, it's hard to believe but this is when the biggest fish of the season are caught. Good luck to everyone and stay safe!

Congrats to Bryan Thompson catching 51.5" achieving lunker of the month! One of the highlights of the month I noticed was Elysa Amberg caught 15 fish on Lake of the Woods!! Sounds like an outstanding trip, hopefully we can hear some of the stories. Troy Schmitz also had great day catching 3 nice mid-40 inch fish in one day late in the month.



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

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

This month I just want to rehash my message from the last newsletter because it's important that I get the message across to everyone. There are two things 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.

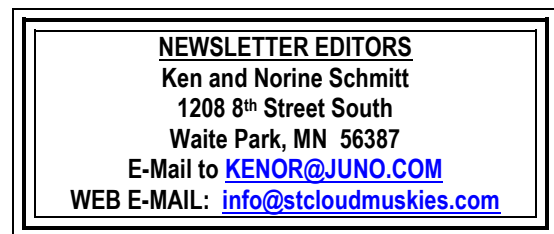
If you fish these lakes, please look for these tags. You can see the tag while the fish is upright in the net. Wipe off the algae and write down the tag number, length of the fish, date, and what lake it was caught from. Report this to the local DNR office. Simple yet vitally important.

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. I've previously told you about the discussions we've been having with the DNR regarding 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 Esx 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 muskie 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

November 2014 Webmaster Report

FaceBook: This is my pet project that requires the help of all of you – the SCMI members. Can you help get our LIKES up to be the best Muskies, Inc. chapter? All it will take is the members to invite their Facebook friends to the SCMI web site. Even our esteemed but non-tech leader and president, Bruce Kitowski, said it was easy to do!!! This can serve as a great launching pad for things such as information to folks to let them know about our annual fish fry fundraiser. It's a great benefit for us, and what a great place to let people know what SCMI does! Please take a few minutes to invite them and everyone benefits. As of today we are at 237 LIKES, let's see if we can add a hundred before the next newsletter....

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

Web Site: 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.

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HUNTING SHAPE UP TIPS By Eric Kohn

It is fall hunting season again. Most of the leaves have fallen off the trees and blaze orange is an accepted color in our clothing selection. In order to stay in the hunt we must prepare our bodies for the hunt. Here are a few simple tips that can prepare your body for a successful hunt:

1. Hydration- The importance of drinking water cannot be overemphasized. The consumption of water will prevent dehydration from long periods in a stand and cramping during long drives through swamps.
2. Correct Clothing- The new hunting apparel is amazing. No longer do you need 8 layers to keep you warm. Light weight, body heat preserving, and less restrictive material is now made to help you stay comfortable longer out in the elements. Check it out, the new clothing is worth the investment for your enjoyment of the hunt.
3. Posture- Long hours of sitting in the stand can lead to increased back and neck pain. To avoid this problem, be aware of correct posture and avoid a slouched back and head forward position. Think "sit up, sit back and ears over shoulders not in front of them".
4. Balance- Falls in the woods can lead to a number of bad things from broken bones, sprained ankles to accidental firearm discharge. To avoid balance issues practice one foot standing before your hunting season. Stand on a pillow or uneven ground to increase the difficulty while practicing at home.
5. Muscle Strains- Nothing can take you out of the hunt faster than a "pulled muscle". Stretching prior to, during and after the hunt will help to avoid this day ending injury. For the hamstrings (back of the leg muscle), place your straightened leg out on a chair, log or anything 6" or more off the ground and lean forward at your waist toward your toes. Remember to lean at your waist and not over flex your back. Keep your toes in the air and even rotate your foot side to side to increase the stretch. For the hip flexors and quads (front of the leg muscle), stand next to tree or wall for support. Stand up tall, bend one knee and grasp ankle with same side hand. Gently pull heel toward butt for easy stretch. Lean back for increased stretch. Both stretches can be performed for 20 seconds a couple of times throughout the day of hunting.

Try some of these tips when you head out to the field this fall to have a safe and successful hunt. Remember to make lifelong memories and hunting partners by introducing kids to the outdoors.

Eric has been with St. Cloud Orthopedics for 15 years. He and his wife Sara live in Sartell and have 3 boys. Eric spends most of his time watching or coaching the boys in sports, fishing and pheasant hunting. He also exercises regularly in order to try to keep up with the energy and activity level of his boys.



JOSH BOROVSKY
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