

THE RELEASE



DECEMBER 2012 Website: www.stcloudmuskies.com

MEETING DATE

December 18, 2012

7:30 p.m

Waite Park American Legion

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WITH WRAPPED LURE EXCHANGE

LURE SWAP AND ROUNDTABLE

PIZZA AND BEVERAGES

MAKING WAVES...

By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

Well November's meeting was outstanding. The Avon Marine Tech came out to talk to us on how we can cure the problems we have with our boats and motors. The info he had was unbelievable. This guy seemed to know everything. He spoke till after 10:00 p.m. and the members still had questions and did not want him to leave. It is truly amazing what he can do with water and machines. I would advise anyone that has a question or problem to contact Avon Marine; I don't think you will be disappointed. We also spoke of having an on the water meeting with him this next year where members would bring their boats and he would solve the problems on the water. How cool would that be? Thanks to Tom Ardolf for setting up this great evening.

I can't believe where the time went this year. Just when I finally started to get my fishing stuff ready the season came to an end. Oh well, I will just have to look forward to some ice fishing and next year's open water. Don't forget about our members Christmas party, it is sure to be a festive event. Also don't forget to bring that wrapped Christmas lure. I would like to wish everyone and their families a very blessed holiday season, and please take to heart the less fortunate.

Bruce



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Marc Jefferson

I'd like to extend a warm welcome two new members this month - Richard Graf from Sauk Rapids and Mitch Hoihjelle from Melrose. We're glad to have you guys on board and I look forward to meeting you. We'd like to remind Ken Hilgert, Tom Blattner, Gloria Rajkowski, Dan and Brent Elieff and Ron Fenske that they're up for renewal in December. We currently have 89 members.

CONTEST REPORT By Marc Jefferson

I apologize that we don't have up to date contest results to end the 2012 season. I was assured by the Lunge Log people that all the search functions would be up and running by now. New International website looks good but the Lunge Log section is useless right now. You can still register your fish, so please make sure to check your personal fish list and get any registered that are still outstanding. As soon as I can get the data I need I'll post standings on the website.

I know there have been some nice fish caught in the last month. Bryan Thompson has been putting them in the net, Nate got himself another 50" and right before the Lunge Log went down I saw some nice fish from Jake Anderson on there. Tom Ardolf got a Sugar lake 50" last week too, pictured below. I'm usually winding down by this point of the season, but I got out on some warmer nights in mid-November and found fish and they've continued to bite well the last few weeks. Back to websites, you have to check out the new chapter site for all the new stuff, totally revamped, including the shot below of Aaron Meyer breaking ice on the last week of the season. You know a guy has been pounding nice fish when he goes to all that trouble to get out on the lake those last few times of the year. www.stcloudmuskies.com

Final 2012 contest standings will be posted on the website as soon as I can get that info



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

By Aaron Meyer

Well, it's over. I'm writing this just a couple hours after leaving the lake for the last time of the 2012 muskie season. A week ago it wasn't looking good, but we managed to find open water and were able to fish right up until the end. Once again, this fall has been a flurry of cold winds, iced up boat ramps, frozen fingers, and a bunch of BIG fish! Just this afternoon, we landed a muskie only a few hundred yards from a group of guys who were icefishing! Hard to swallow the fact that it's going to be 6 months before I can make my next cast for muskies.

The end of the muskie season means the beginning of the next round of MN Muskie and Pike Alliance meetings. We're all hoping it will be a year of less controversy, and we can tackle some more enjoyable projects to help keep big fish available to everyone throughout the state. Several of us from the MMPA also recently attended the latest "Esox Workshop", where we sit down with DNR officials and biologists and work directly with them to shape the future of muskie and pike management in Minnesota. I'll keep you up to date on anything that transpires.

Our speaker in November was outstanding! A big "Thank You" goes out to Randy Pierson of Avon Marine for bringing an absolute wealth of knowledge on boat performance and doing a great job of sharing it with us! It seemed to me that almost everybody in the room had some sort of minor -or major- issue that Randy knew how to solve. What was most impressive to me was that he didn't just know how to solve problems the "standard" way, but he really knew exactly why certain issues existed and what it really took to fix them... because he's tried everything!

Our December meeting is always a fun one. As usual, we'll be electing our Board members for the coming year. We'll be having a lure swap, so bring anything you might want to sell or trade. We'll also be doing our annual roundtable discussion on how everybody's season went, and we'll be doing our gift exchange. Throw some wrapping paper around a muskie lure and come on out for drinks and pizza... see you there!

Aaron





End of the season fishing!!!

WEBMASTER By Tom Ardolf

December 2012 Webmaster Report

What a great month, having our first full month of our two internet sites, the web page and the Facebook page, up and running. It is very encouraging to see the members visiting the sites as well as others that comment on our efforts and sport in general. Details on the web site include having 3 days of about 200 page views and about 150 unique visitors. What was interesting to see were the top couple of pages, which were the forum and viewing all the pictures. We have so few forum members on line, so I don't quite know why that is the case.

The Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$200 for 2 years of web site costs. Since the meeting, I've discovered I will be able to use the hosting service that can be provided by the software service that I use to develop and maintain the web site (Weebly) which will cut down on our costs. I plan on renewing our Weebly subscription for 2 years to get a lower cost, which will be \$2.99/month for 2 years. We will have a domain renewal fee later this year (June) but the cost reductions of not needing the GoDaddy hosting should easily cover this cost.

The web site has also generated a few submissions from the Contact page, which I believe helped us to gain a couple new members this month. I have also been in communication with other folks that have submitted Contact requests.

Facebook: This is where you see the most activity, of course, as its goal is to provide a place for interaction of our members and others who Like us. I've also tried to keep a flow of new info by either visiting member's Facebook pages and sharing their photos, etc., and also taking content from sources such as the such as the Muskies, Inc. web site and the MN Muskie Study. Bruce has also forwarded content that I place on the site. Please feel free to send me info, videos, pictures, stories, etc. that we can post on the site, or feel free to do it yourself.

We currently have 46 Likes as of the writing of this report. The most recent week of data includes: the lowest reach we have is about 60 people per day and the most is around 135. We tend to have about 10-12 people "talking" about the page, which is really people participating.



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