

THE RELEASE



2012 Website: www.stcloudmuskies.com

COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

7:00 p.m

SPECIAL LOCATION:

SAUK RAPIDS AMERICAN LEGION

415 BENTON DRIVE, SAUK RAPIDS, MN

SPEAKER:

DICK PEARSON

MAKING WAVES...

By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone and their families. I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season. The reason I am naming this piece this year "Making Waves" is that last year that is exactly what we did. We stood up to legislature and made our voice heard. We didn't get everything we wanted, but we definitely got in their face. Well this year will be no different. Along with our usual activities with youth, and the natural resources, we will be pushing for better muskie and pike regs. We will be reckoned with. Our leaders just need to be led in the right direction, and have their hand held through the procedures. It's all about the education.

I'd like to thank everyone that made the Christmas Party. It was a very nice evening, and we all had a great time. This next year looks to be an exciting one. With seminars like Dick Pearson in February, a poolside demonstration in March, Fish Dinner in April, boat show in June, and many, many more ideas for the rest of the year. Please come and join us throughout the year and have some fun.

Last month we held elections and all of our board members graciously decided to stay with us for another year. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to these gentlemen for their devotion and passion to this organization. Our sport is where it is today because of people like this. Also new to the board this year is Ken Smith. He will be our Magazine Reporter for the club. Ken has been on our board before as secretary, and we welcome him back.

Enjoy the winter, please be safe, and use your best judgment when going out onto the ice.

Bruce



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DICK PEARSON

SPEAKER

7:00 p.m.

Sauk Rapids American Legion

415 Benton Drive

Sauk Rapids MN

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Dick Pearson will be our speaker at the January/February combined chapter meeting to be held on Monday, February 6, 2012, at the Sauk Rapids Legion. Dick will be speaking at the meeting about **big fish spots**. Hope to see you there!!

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Ken and Norine Schmitt

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Marc Jefferson

Greetings – We don't have any new members this month, and we don't have anyone up for renewal currently, but our membership numbers continue to hold steady because people like Royce Nies, Nate Rose, Michael Beck and Roger Theiler renew their membership year after year. Thanks, guys – we're glad to have you all back for another season. Don't forget we have some exciting meetings coming up with guests like Dick Pearson. Winter is always a great time to invite new people to meetings and get to know old members, hope to see you there this winter!

CONTEST REPORT By Marc Jefferson

Here are your final contest standings for 2011. No changes from last month. Congrats to everyone who registered fish, I hope everyone had fun watching the contest and seeing what other people were catching. Did you get a lot of new fishing stuff for Christmas? I got a couple big crankbaits and a Rough Rider surface bait from my wife, can't wait to use them. Please let me know if there are any errors on the report, we can still correct the logs if needed. This season was definitely unique for a lot of members and we'll be sharing our highs and lows at our awards banquet in early 2012. Next month we'll take a look at the lunge log for 2011 and break down some of the trends.

Final Contest Standings - 2011

CURRENT STANDINGS

Division	Name	# of Fish, > 40"	Poin ts	Largest	Avera ge
Masters	Carl Peterson	20 fish, 12 > 40"	230	50.5"	40.5"
	Bryan Thompson	11 fish, 10 > 40"	183	50.25	43.5"
Mens	Nick DeBoer	18	318	50.25"	43.9"
	Ken Smith	16	303	50.5	44.8"
	Marc Jefferson	12	208	50"	43.4"
	Troy Schmitz	7	99	46.5"	39.8"
	Eric Kohn	6	95	46"	41.8"
	Nate Rose	5	89	49.5"	43.5"
	Tom Ardolf	3	46	42"	41.3"
	Jason Jones	2	32	43"	42"
	Chad Schulzetenberg	3	26	35"	34.5"
	Ron Fenske	1	25	51.25"	51.25"
	Ken Schmitt	1	16	42"	42"
Sven Larsen	1	11	37"	37"	
Juniors	Sam Larsen	2	20	38"	36"
	Luke Jones	2	31	42"	41.5"
	Ryan Schmitz	1	10	36":	36"

Lunker of the Month

June	Ron Fenske	51.25"	Sham
July	Dave Mendel	50.5"	Cass
August	Nick DeBoer	51"	Tonka
Sept	Nate Rose	49.5"	Cass
Oct	Marc Jefferson	49.5"	Bald Eagle

Nov Carl Peterson

50.5" Alexander

PROGRAM DIRECTOR By Aaron Meyer

I hope everyone had a great Christmas! As usual, our St. Cloud Chapter Christmas meeting was a lot of fun! There was pizza and drinks, and people shared some great stories from the past year. We had our gift exchange, and another lure swap. I managed to score a cool new bait and I'm already itching to get out and fish it! (Thanks Nick, I'll let you know when I stick a 50 on it!)

Since opening day of walleye season I've heard of probably at least a dozen of our freshly stocked muskies being caught on the Horseshoe Chain! At the Christmas party, our own member Tom Ardolf informed us that he had caught one of them too. Very neat Tom!

Our next meeting will be the Dick Pearson seminar! This will, no doubt, be one of the most interesting and informative seminars of the year! Because of scheduling issues, we will be at the SAUK RAPIDS American Legion instead of our usual location. February 6th at 7:00 pm. Be there! In addition to the great seminar, we will be raffling off a muskie painting done by local artist Larry Huls. This is NOT a print, but an original painting! Larry is very talented and has won the state trout stamp contest twice in recent years! Come out and buy some chances at this very cool painting. All the proceeds will go directly towards the many projects our chapter is involved in regarding youth events and muskie research, management, and stocking.

Over the last couple years our chapter, through membership in the MN Muskie and Pike Alliance, has been involved in some very important issues regarding pike and muskie management. We've always taken the stance that what's good for the fish is what's good for us fishermen- if we follow sound science and biology, there will always be quality fishing opportunities throughout the state. Well, things have gone away from simply letting biologists properly manage our resources and in several cases we've found ourselves fighting political and legislative battles. The problem is that once one or more legislators buy into an idea and write the legislation, you are fighting a losing battle. Sadly, there's no question that we will continue to see this type of poor management legislation coming at us over the next few years.

At the MMPA, we've decided that we need to change direction a bit. Rather than always being in the opposing position, it's time for us to start working to provide positive ideas to our legislators. We need to propose and promote legislation that will do GOOD things for the future of our fisheries. Legislators aren't out there wanting to harm our fisheries but in many cases they don't fully understand the impact that their management decisions can have. Our aim is to provide them with good management ideas and get the ball rolling in the right direction. We'll be looking at various ways to protect and better manage our muskies and pike. If you have any creative, positive ideas that might achieve that goal, feel free to contact one of the board members and we'll discuss it with the MMPA. Don't forget to support the MMPA by getting some cool gear at <http://www.cafepress.com/mnmuskie>

Happy New Year!

Aaron



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WEBMASTER By Ron Fenske

I hope you are using the www.stcloudmuskies.com website. Please forward any pictures you would like to share to one of the board members and we will be sure to get them posted on the site, or feel free to post any interesting thoughts and views. We have photos, newsletters, minutes, fishing results, MMA minutes, message board, and links to our sponsors. It's cool – check it out.

FALL GET TOGETHER 2012

We are proud to announce the dates for our 2012 Fall Get Together. It will be held from September 20th through September 23rd at Cass Lake. Back again, by popular demand, Cass Lake Lodge will be hosting our event. Details will follow.

So mark your calendars so you don't miss this event.

Dave Mendel

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