

August '20



Greg Hassmann Holds 2019's
43rd Annual Tournament Biggest Fish



Chapter Updates

A special thank you goes out to the team at Eau Claire Ford who recently hosted the Muskie alliance Boat Raffle. They volunteered their staff to help sell Raffle tickets, show the boat, and promote betterment of Wisconsin's Musky fishery. Thank you, Eau Clair Ford, for partnering to improve musky fishing on Wisconsin waters. Please be sure to extend your/our gratitude the next time you visit.

The July tournament Committee meeting was held on Tuesday the 7th. The committee discussed the feasibility of hosting the 44th annual tournament. Many ideas were proposed and evaluated amongst the group. Ultimately the committee members were asked to vote for or against hosting a tournament with a virtual registration and awards banquet with prizes awarded through 10th place. The 7 committee members voted 5 to 2 in favor of postponing the 44th annual tournament until September of 2021. The committee felt strongly that the effort required to keep up with the changing local guidelines, host a safe tournament, and provide a format that properly served participants was to tall a task for the existing volunteers. We apologize for any inconveniences and hope to see all of you at the 44th annual tournament in 2021.

1st Wisconsin's July Board Meeting: Another virtual meeting was held last month (July).

The August board meeting was held in person on its regularly scheduled date (August 17th) at the Chippewa Falls Rod and Gun Clubhouse. A reminder that all board meetings are open to chapter members. Further, we are actively seeking volunteers to take on a larger role with the chapter and board. If you like musky fishing

and want to make a lasting impact on our fisheries, we welcome you to join in our efforts.

September's general meeting will be discussed at the August Board meeting. An update will be posted on the chapter facebook page notifying membership of the meeting status. Please reach out to a board member for an update if you are not a facebook user.

1st Wi's Top Water Chal-Lunge

1st Wi's Muskies Inc directors Mathew Ross (Musky Operations) and Dave Jann resurrected the top water challenge. The event was held on the infamous Dairyland Flowage. 12 boats and 24 contestants beat the water for a combined 168 hours. No legal fish were boated during the event. The Smith Family put a shorty in the boat and two other contestants broke the surface to catch a few more. The standing champion is Travis Henry who took the trophy home in 2018.

Members Only Lunge Log

First Wisconsin Chapter MOFC as of 08/11/20

Juniors Fry

Member Name	Muskies Caught	Total Points	Largest Fish
Smith, Fischer	12	154	47.50
Liske, Marissa	9	72	43.25
Weeks, Jacob William	3	37	42.50
Liske, Mason	3	22	34.00
Weeks, Joel Leif	1	5	31.00

Juniors Fingerling

Member Name	Muskies Caught	Total Points	Largest Fish
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Emerson, Matthew	1	5	31.00
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Longacre, Adrian Wayne	1	5	31.00
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Womens

Member Name	Muskies Caught	Total Points	Largest Fish
Allen, Lesa	1	13	39.00

Sommerfeld, Ace	14	156	45.00
Riedel, Tom	12	130	50.00
Brenner, Nickolas	10	114	46.50
Smith, Jason D	4	62	45.00
Klingbeil, Jordan	6	54	42.50
Wright, Brian H.	4	45	48.50
Rubesch Jr, Leonard J	4	39	42.50
Klein, Dan	3	36	45.00
Bunch, Jeffrey	2	25	43.25

Mens

Member Name	Muskies Caught	Total Points	Largest Fish
Martin, Tony	25	331	46.00
Mc Laughlin, Shane	24	268	46.00
Rabska, Josh	12	175	51.25
Spletter, Cortland	14	153	43.00
Ross, Matthew	13	127	47.00
Hanson, Dan C.	10	122	45.00
Carlson, Todd	9	113	46.00
Mc Keeth, Nathan	10	94	44.25
Wilcox, Brandon	6	82	47.25
Keown, Mike	5	78	45.25
Brenner, Kris	7	61	46.00
Bauer, Eric	5	60	44.25
Eckert, Tony	6	54	39.00
Goodbrake, John	4	46	41.00
Wilcox, Larry	4	44	48.00
Phillips, Brian D	2	39	50.00
Ursin, Martin	3	38	45.00
Vollmer, David A	2	34	49.00
Ballweg, Mason	3	30	40.00
Harris, Chad	2	24	41.75
Darley, Kyle	2	23	45.25
Gibson, Mitchell J	1	23	49.00
Meinking, Vito	2	23	39.00
Demulling, Corey	2	20	40.00
Prestebak, Dan	2	18	36.00
Smith, Scott T	1	17	43.00
Sharer, Travis	1	14	40.25
Weeks, Vern W	1	14	40.25
Imm, John K	2	8	30.00
Scott, Bruce	1	8	34.00
Begley, R. Shane	1	5	30.50

Total Anglers	Total Muskies	Total Points	Avg. Largest
48	272	3120	42.49

Lunker of the Month

Month	Member Name	Length
March	John Goodbrake	32.25"
May	Brian H. Wright	48.50"
June	Josh Rabska	51.25"
July	Tom Riedel	50.00"
August	Brian D Phillips	50.00"

Milestones This Season

First Muskie Registered-	Mason Ballweg
	Adrian Wayne Longacre
	Tony Martin
	Vito Meinking
	R.Shane Begley



Personal Best Registered- Dave Vollmer-49"
 Tony Martin- 46"
 Kyle Darley- 45.25"
 Marissa Liske-43.25"
 Eric Bauer-42.25"
 Travis Sharer-40.25"
 Mason Ballweg-40"
 Vito Meinking-39"

Century Club- Ace Sommerfeld- 400
 Matt Ross-100

50" + Josh Rabska-51.25"
 Tom Riedel-50"
 Brian D. Phillips-50"

RULES for Chapters MOFC/Lunker of the Month

Link to Chapter rules are on the last couple pages of April 2020 newsletter.

Muskie Inc. "Lite" Entry system explained also.

http://firstwimuskiesinc.org/documents/newsletters/2020_04.PDF

Link to Muskie Inc. Fishing Policies

https://muskiesinc.org/indy_files/zz_llentry.php upper right of page

New Horizons

With a current membership base of 227 the board of directors is thinking outside the boat on how we can attract more members. We are looking for volunteers to help improve our reach in the Youth and Female fishing categories. If you are a Female or Youth musky angler and

would like to volunteer, or have ideas on how we can improve our followership, please reach out to us.

Current Fundraisers

We wrapping up raffle ticket sales for the Muskie Alliance Ranger Boat. Jack Gerlach will be delivering the tickets to eagle river the week of august 17th. The boat drawing will be held on August 23. Thank you to Muskies Alliance for supporting the First Wisconsin Chapter.

One Fish, Two Fish

The Board has been diligently exploring the potential of re-introducing a stocking program. Tom Riedel (Musky Madness), Nick Brenner, Paul Gottwald, and Josh Rabska (Rabska Musky Lures) have been working with local fisheries biologists, rearing ponds, and 1st WI Muskies Inc. members to learn how the chapter can revitalize the stocking program. Although we had a slight window to stock last fall, we weren't able to procure the needed fish in time to make it happen. Recent information leads us to believe we will be able to begin stocking muskies in the next 5 years. Meanwhile, we are exploring the feasibility of partnering with local clubs and agencies to build habitat on our tournament waters.

Interested In Volunteering?

We are actively seeking volunteers to fulfill director and assistant roles on the board. Any interested members can reach out to a board member to learn more. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out.



Digital Transformation

The club has made a proactive decision to shift a considerable amount of our communication to the chapter Facebook page. Timing couldn't have been better considering the recent shelter in place order enacted at the state level. Please take a moment to log on to facebook and like our page to ensure you are receiving the most up to date information on club happenings.

The club is also working on giving our website a facelift. Members who frequent our website will soon be pleasantly surprised by the enhanced online experience provided by Capture Life (Web Development & Design company).

Regional Meeting Summary

The Regional meeting was held in Wausau in March. Tom Reidle provided the summary to follow. The biggest thing that was done were motions were presented to disband the state chapters organization, as it largely duplicates the region in function and for duties related to the Kleeba Challenge be shifted to the region (passed). It was further motioned that the remaining roughly \$1250 in the state chapters account be given to the DNR shocking boat project in central WI as this is a project very near completion, most clubs have invested in it already, and it will affect a significant portion of musky water (passed). Our chapter supported the electroshock boat by providing a \$2000.00 donation.

Board Meeting Attendance

Attendees:

1. Rob Given
2. Josh Rabska
3. Nathan McKeeth
4. Tom Riedel
5. Kevin Rabska
6. Jack "Bud" Gerlach
7. Paul Gottwald
8. Kyle Darley
9. Nick Brenner
10. Joe Heil

Absentees:

11. Matt Ross
12. John Goodbrake
13. Dave Jann
14. Don Maves
15. Scott Schreiber
16. Rob Given

Board Moves

A motion to approve the June meeting minutes was made by Kyle Darley and seconded by Nathan McKeeth. The motion passed unanimously.

Nick Brenner made a motion to postpone the 44th annual tournament to September 17th thru the 19th of 2021– The motion was seconded by Paul Gottwald which passed unanimously. Hearty discussion was held regarding a virtual format. Unfortunately we did not have the needed components to make an expedient shift to a virtual format. Director Kevin Rabska is diligently investigating a virtual platform which may become the standard platform going forward, stay tuned!

A motion was made by Nick Brenner and Seconded by Paul Gottwald to withhold sponsorship of the Wisconsin Catfish



Tournament. The motion was made on the basis of safety of participants due to the elevated risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>When & Where</i>	<i>Event</i>
08/17/2020	6:30 PM Board Meeting Chippewa Rod-n-Gun	*
09/07/2020	No General Meeting Tournament Month	*
1/23/2021	Annual Banquet	Fill Inn Station
09/17/2021	44th 1st Wisc. Annual Musky Tournament	September 2021

Officers:

- Josh Rabska: President, Asst Fishers, Web Committee . 715-210-1561 . jrabska@yahoo.com
- John Goodbrake: Vice President, Asst. RVP (AL) . 715-703-3305 . jt.goodbrake@gmail.com
- Jack Gerlach: Treasurer, Banquet Chair, Fundraiser Chair, Ast. Tournament Chair 715-579-8035 . jjgerlach90@gmail.com
- Tom Riedel: Chpt Rep, Asst Fisheries, Program Chair . 715-834-0286 . mskytom@gmail.com
- Kyle M Darley: Secretary, Tour. Director, Editor, Ast. Programs Chair, Ast. Fundraiser Chair . 715-225-2611 . kmd@darley.com

Board Members:

- Dave Jann: Chap Outings Chair 715-577-3395 . muskiedave16@yahoo.com

Kevin Rabska: Asst Treas, Web Committee Chair . 715-340-1268 . kevin.rabska@gmail.com

Don Maves : Merchandise Chair, Asst Tour. 715-563-2134 . don@redcedarconstruction.com

Paul Gottwald MOFC 715-271-6652 . pjgecwi@gmail.com

Matt Ross: Ast Outings 929-242-1631 muskyoperations@gmail.com

Nathan McKeeth: 715-308-4654 river_ratt99@yahoo.com

Rob Given: Asst Youth 715-563-1685 rgiven@doroinc.com

Nickolas Brenner: Youth Chair 715-456-4103 nickolasbrenner@yahoo.com

Scott Schreiber: Tagging, Asst. Member 715-797-5828 scottdschreiber@yahoo.com

Committees

Alex Swanson: 1st Wis League Chair 608-445-7703 . alex.swanson3@yahoo.com

Joseph L Heil: Asst Trea, Membership Chair, Banquet, Pit Tagging 715-559-2945 . muskyjoe13@yahoo.com

Editors Corner:

A special thank you to all of our volunteers & Donors for keeping the wheels turning. If you have anything exciting you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, please reach out to Kyle M. Darley by email: KyleDarley@Darley.com