



# The Marker Buoy<sup>1</sup>

**January 2024**

**This Month's Meeting:** This month's club meeting will be held on Wednesday January 10th at 6:30 pm at the Hoffman House. January's speaker is Louie Dazzo from Louie's Get Hooked Guide Service.



He will be talking about Lake Michigan trout and salmon fishing and Lake Geneva walleye and lake trout fishing. Louie guides in the Hayward Lakes area, the Milwaukee/Racine area of Lake Michigan for trout and salmon, and Lake Geneva. If you like to book a Trip with Louie give him a call at (630) 699-4258, email him at [louis.dazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:louis.dazzo@yahoo.com), or look him up on Facebook.



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**Important Change:** Starting in January our club meeting will be in the former restaurant area of the Hoffman House. This room can be entered thru the bar or thru the hallway by the bar. Please note it was Hoffman House's decision to make this change.

**Special Raffle Prize for January:** The raffle prize will be a \$25 Casey's gas card. Each member attending the meeting will be given a ticket for the gas card raffle. If you spend \$10 on the monthly table raffle you will be given an extra ticket for the gas card raffle. If you spend \$20 on the monthly table raffle you will get 3 extra tickets for the gas card raffle. Good luck!

**Fishing Contest:** The 2023 club fishing contest has now concluded. See results below.

**December Fish of the Month:** There was no December fish of the month due to no fish being submitted to the contest this month.



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## **Fishing Garage Sale**

**The “Fishing Garage Sale” is scheduled for March 3th, 2024 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm at the Hoffman House.**

**As a “fundraiser” for the Rock Valley Anglers this year we are asking for donations of any “good fishing equipment” from our club members that we can sell at the “Fishing Garage Sale”.**

**We have reserved two tables at the sale. All money we collect goes to our treasury. The costs of speakers plus running the club has continued to rise. Also the club is still running on the lean side after COVID.**

**The club will also, as in the past, have a table set up at the entrance selling our raffle prizes.**

**Please bring your donated items to the next meetings of the Rock Valley Anglers January 10th or February 14th where we can collect them. Anything big we can pick up.**

**Any questions? Please call Gary Vosberg at 815 262 2239. Or John Wendell at 815 208 5556.**



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## Changes for Illinois Sportsmen in 2024

Hunters, fishermen, and trappers can now obtain a three-year license under a new law for which I served as a chief co-sponsor. Under House Bill 3677/P.A. 103-0456, for residents aged 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a three-year fishing/hunting license. For resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a three-year fishing license. Veterans must provide to the Department, per administrative rule, verification of their service. The Department shall establish what constitutes suitable verification of service for the purpose of issuing three-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

Additionally, under House Bill 2317/P.A. 103-0528, for sport fishing devices or spearing devices, any resident of Illinois who is age 26 or older who has not purchased a resident fishing license in the past 10 years is now eligible to receive a one-time annual resident fishing license for a fee of \$5. The law also provides that any nonresident who has not purchased a nonresident fishing license in the past 10 years shall be eligible to receive a one-time annual sport fishing license for a fee of \$10.



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**Club hats:** We will be selling Rock Valley Anglers baseball hats at club meetings. Adult size hats will be \$15 and youth hats will be \$5. The number of youth hats is limited. Please contact Gary Vosberg for information.





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## Members Only Fishing Contest

### Best of Breed: Standings As of 1/3/2024

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length (in inches)</u>
Smallmouth	Greg Sterwald	21.5
Largemouth	Bruce Youngberg	23
Northern	Briam Vogrinc	38.5
Muskie	Frank Sondgeroth	45
Catfish	Chad Riesen	31
Walleye	Chad Riesen	30



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Angler of the Year: As of 1/3/2024

	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chad Riesen	18	19.75	30	10	11.75	89.5
Chris Olson	19	20.75	26	10.25	12	88
Kerry Schaible	19.5	19.75	22	9	11.5	81.75
Tom Wesseln	19.25	19.5	20.5	10	11.5	80.75
Therese Wesseln	19.75	18	13.75	10.25	12	73.5
John Rassmussen		21	29			50
Greg Sterwald	18.5	21.5				40
Gary Vosberg			24		12.5	36.5
Scott Campbell	16			9.5	10.5	36
Robert Woelky			28.5			28.5
Dave Matranga			28.5			28.5



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	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	
Bria Vogrinc			24.5			24.5
Bruce Youngberg	23					23
Russ Maxwell			20			





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## Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 1/3/2024

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chad Riesen	14.5	10	11.75	36.25
Chris Olson	13	10.25	12	35.25
Tom Wesseln	11	10	11.5	32.5
Kerry Schaible	11.5	9	11.5	32
Theresa Wesseln	7.5	10.25	12	29.75
Gary Vosberg		9	12.5	21.5
Scott Campbell		9.5	10.5	20
John Rasmussen	15			15



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## Members Only Fishing Contest Rules

**General: Only fish caught from waters accessible by the general public are eligible.**

### ***Contest #1: Fish of the Month***

**All entries caught during a calendar month will be evaluated by the Board of Directors to determine a winner. Entries must be received by the 1st Wednesday of the month following the catch to be considered. A \$15 gift card will be awarded to members catching the winning fish. Each member can win only once per year. Species considered—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.**

### **Contest #2: Fisherman of the Year**

**Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The lengths of each member's best individual fish of 5 different species will be added to determine a total length. A \$100 gift card will be awarded to the longest total**



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length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to the second longest total length. A \$25 gift card will be awarded to the third longest total length. In the event of ties, the winning

will be split evenly. Contest Species—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Bluegill, Crappie.

## Contest #3: Best of Breed

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. A \$20 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. In the event of ties, a \$10 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. Each member can win only once per species. Contest Species— Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.

## Contest #4: Pan fisherman of the Year

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The aggregate lengths of each member's best individual fish of the 3 different species of panfish will be added to determine a total length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to



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the member with the longest total length. In the event of ties, the winnings will be split evenly. Contest Species—Bluegill, Crappie, and Yellow Perch.

Submitting fish for the contests is very easy. Just copy/paste the email template below. Paste the template into an email, complete the questions, attach picture(s) of the catch, and send to: [rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com](mailto:rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com)

**Copy/Paste Email Template for Electronic Fish Entries:**

- 1) Name:
- 2) Date Caught:
- 3) Species:
- 4) Length (inches to 1/4 inch):
- 5) Lake/River:
- 6) State:
- 7) Picture: [Yes or No]
- 8) Date Entered:
- 9) Witness:

**\*Remember to attach picture(s) to email prior to sending.**

**\*Send to [rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com](mailto:rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com)**



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## **RVA Board Members:**

**President: Joe Caruana phone: 815-985-9388 and email:  
jac3311@gmail.com**

**Vice President: Open position**

**Secretary: Stu Sondgeroth: phone: 815-233-0964 and email:  
[billies@comcast.net](mailto:billies@comcast.net)**

**Treasurer: Bruce Youngberg: phone: 815-871-8142 and email:  
bay37@comcast.net**

**Raffle/Mountain of Tackle: Ron Lund: phone: 815-222-0758 and  
thelunds2@comcast.net**

**Outing Coordinator: Open position**

**Marker Buoy Editor: Jason Thompson: phone: 815-298-8717 and email:  
jthom98@msn.com**

**Web Master/Tech: Gary Vosberg phone: 815-262-2239 and email:  
gvosberg66@gmail.com**



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