The Marker Buoy[1]

March 2025

This Month's Meeting: Our monthly meeting will be held Wednesday March 12th at 6:30 pm at the Hoffman House. The speaker for the March meeting is going to be guide Doug Kloet who will be speaking on multi species fishing on Lake Geneva. His presentation will include information about Musky fishing on Lake Geneva. We carried Doug's presentation over to this month's meeting due to the cancellation of last month's meeting because of the snow storm.

Doug is a US Coast Guard Licensed Charter Captain. He has over 20 years of guiding experience on the highly pressured waters of S.E. Wisconsin and N.E. Illinois.

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All guide trips include fishing out of a fully rigged Recon boat with Mercury outboard and kicker, Minn Kota trolling motor and Humminbird electronics. Each outing consists of using the finest equipment available from Pure Fishing products, Chaos Tackle, Stealth Tackle and Cortland fishing line. For a guide trip contact Doug at **Phone: 262-705-7415 or Email musky127@gmail.com.**

Large Raffle Prize for March: Special raffle prizes for March are a Piscifun Flame 3000 spinning reel with 10 stainless steel bearings and a 5:2.1 1 gear ratio. A Plano Pro series 3600 tackle bag. A Frabill Bear Claw fishing net. Tickets are $5 for1, $10 for 3 and $20 for 7.

Special raffle prize for March: Special raffle prize for October meeting will be a $25 gift card to Casey's Gas Station. Each paid member attending the meeting will be given a ticket for the raffle. One lucky ticket will win. If you spend $10 on the table raffle you will be given an additional ticket for the gas card. Spend $20, you will get 3 extra tickets.

Club Raffle: As a major fundraiser for our monthly speakers the Rock Valley Anglers will hold a raffle at our March 12th monthly meeting. Please bring any unsold tickets or money from the ticket sales to this month's meeting. Each club member has been given 6 books of raffle tickets containing 6 tickets each. All members are asked to sell all these tickets if possible. Members are encouraged to sell more tickets if possible. Ticket prices are 1 dollar each **or** 5 dollars for 6 tickets **or** 15 dollars for 18. First prize is $500, second prize is $250, and third prize is $100.

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Fishing Garage Sale

The “Fishing Garage Sale” is scheduled for March 16th, 2025 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm at the Hoffman House.

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

We have reserved three tables at the sale. All money minus expenses we collect goes to our treasury.

The club will also, as in the past, have a table set up at the entrance selling our raffle tickets and the “Mountain of Tackle” prize tickets.

Please bring your donated items to the next few meetings of the Rock Valley Anglers Mach 12th where we can collect them. Anything big we can pick up.

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

April Meeting: The April meeting on the 9th will be our annual All City Muskie Night meeting with the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies Inc. This year's speaker will be Andrew Schiera. As in past years there will be numerous raffles and silent auctions during All City Muskie Night.

Cooler and Liquor Raffle: As in past years we will be raffling off a cooler filled with bottles of alcohol. We would like members to donate an unopened bottle(s) of alcohol for this important fundraiser. Please bring your donations to the March meeting.

Volunteers Needed: The club is in need of volunteers to help with selling of tickets for the Mountain of Tackle Raffle at the fishing garage sale. Volunteers are also needed to man the tables the club has set inside of the fishing garage sale. Please contact Joe Caruana about volunteering

Annual Dues: It's that time of the year again! Yearly dues are once again due. Dues are $45 dollars per year. Please bring cash or a cash made out to the Rock Valley Anglers Club of Illinois to our March meeting. Please bring the new member/renewal form to the March or April meeting. This form will be sent out in addition to this month's Marker Buoy

Awards for 2024 Fishing Contest: All awards from last year's contest will be given out at our March meeting.

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February Fish of the Month: Is a 22 inch walleye caught by Tom Wesseln 2/25/25 on the Rock River in Illinois.

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Recent Member Catches

Kerry Schiable recently caught a 12.5 inch bluegill

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Recent Member Catches

Scott Campbell recently caught a 12 inch crappie and an 11 inch crappie on Deer Lake in Three Lakes, WI on 2/21/25. Hans Albers is also pictured with a 13 inch crappie.

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Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings As of 3/5/2025

Species	Angler	Length (in inches)
Smallmouth	No Entries	
Largemouth	Steve Hohlfelder	16.5
Northern	Nick Land	31
Muskie	No Entries	
Catfish	No Entries	
Walleye	Tom Wesseln	22

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Angler of the Year: As of 3/5/2025

	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Tom Wesseln			**22**			**22**
Steve Hohlfelder	**16.5**					**16.5**
Scott Campbell					**12**	**12**
Chad Riesen					**11**	**11**

Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 3/5//2025

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Scott Campbell			**12**	**12**
Chad Riesen			**11**	**11**

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 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

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

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**

RVA Board Members:

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

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