



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

**March 2023**

**This Month's Meeting:** The next club meeting will be our annual banquet and it will be held on March 8th. This year the banquet will be held at Thunder Bay Grille in Rockford and we are ordering off the menu. The banquet will be lots of fun and there will be very nice prizes for members with paid dues. .

**Club membership dues:** The cost for yearly dues will remain \$30 for 2023. Please submit your yearly dues to secretary Stu Sondgeroth or treasurer Bruce Youngberg by mail or at our monthly meeting.

**2023 Club Outings:** The club is planning to have two cookout and fishing nights at Pierce Lake in the spring and summer of 2023. We are also planning a couple of 1 day fishing contests in Northern Illinois or Southern Wisconsin in 2023.

**Garage Sale Raffle Prize:**

**Reel:** Pflueger Supreme XT 30 spinning reel. Magnesium frame, 10 ball bearings, sealed carbon drag with a 5.2:1 gear ratio.

**Rod:** Fenwick HMG 7'0" Medium Fast 1 piece spinning rod.

The combo retails together for \$290.

Tickets for the combo will be priced 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, and 7 for \$20. The raffle drawing will be held at 2 pm on Sunday at the Garage Sale.



# The Marker Buoy<sub>2</sub>

**Club hats:** We will be selling Rock Valley Anglers baseball hats at the fishing garage sale and subsequent 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.




**April Muskie Night Raffle:** The club is planning on raffling off a cooler and liquor bottle package at the All City Muskie Night. We are seeking donations of unopened bottles of liquor from club members for the raffle. Please contact President Joe Caruana for details.




# The Marker Buoy<sup>3</sup>

April Club Meeting




Flatlanders Chapter  
and  
Rock Valley Anglers  
Joint Meeting to Present



www.RockValleyAnglers.com

## ***Rockford All City Muskie Night***

Featuring  
***Steve Herbeck***  
Musky Legend



April 12, 2023 6:30 PM Hoffman House  
7550 East State St. Rockford IL  
**Open to the Public - Free Admission**

Plus raffles, silent auctions, and fishing info

[www.flatlanderschapter.com](http://www.flatlanderschapter.com)    [www.RockValleyAnglers.com](http://www.RockValleyAnglers.com)



# The Marker Buoy<sup>4</sup>

Steve Herbeck is one of modern musky history's most prolific anglers and educators. In a recent voting poll by a panel of his peers at the Chicago Muskie Show Steve was voted as one of the top 10 musky anglers of modern times and often referred to as a living legend in the sport. Besides being highly regarded for his instruction and sought as an educator, seminar speaker, writer, and innovator, his influences have explored and developed through the years many presentations and philosophies now considered by many as gospel.

Steve has been obsessed with Muskies since he was 12 years old when his father "Big Dan" first took him on his first trip with "the guys" to Squirrel Lake in WI's Vilas County and he boated his first of thousands.

His professional career started in the mid '80s when in his words "I had to do something, I was so consumed with chasing Muskies I was constantly trying to get out of work to do it. I knew if I didn't take the leap and give it a try I would not only not be happy but I would soon go broke".

The southern WI lakes and rivers were quietly becoming musky meccas and the Madison chain right in his backyard at the time had an exploding hybrid tiger fishery. With the increasing interest in those fisheries along with periodic safaris to N WI and some great catches his business grew to full time. His love for and the lure of the WI Northwoods drew him and he moved to famous Boulder Jct. in Vilas county WI to take the next step. From 1987 thru 1992, 5 years, Steve's clients twice boated the largest musky caught in the state of WI, a 55 1/2" 43# 6oz by Jack Clifton 1987 and a 53" 47# 10oz by Steve White in 1991 which was also the largest fish recorded in North America for that year along with many others in the top ten during that time.

The next evolution took place with the purchase of Andy Myers Lodge and a move to Ontario's World Famous Eagle Lake. The lure of course was world record class muskies. From 1993 to 2013 he not only guided 5-6 days a week but worked 7 days a week building AML into one of the premier fishing destinations in NW Ontario with an emphasis on of course...trophy muskies. After 20 years and approaching retirement years in Steve's words "AML was getting so popular it turned into a monster and just



# The Marker Buoy<sup>5</sup>

kept growing... and I let it, till it kept growing far beyond my visions and I realized if I wanted to continue to pursue my true passion in life it was time to pass the torch as a resort owner.

Staying on with the new owners Julian and Nicky Kalka as a consultant, doing guest seminars, training new guides, and guiding 6-7 days a week with his old guests and friends might seem like a full-time job but Steve says " it's like being on vacation compared to what I was responsible for before and I get to chase giant muskies on one of the most beautiful lakes on the planet". During that 27 year span, Steve and his clients have boated literally hundreds of 50"+ muskies and 51 going over that magical 40 pound mark to up and over 50 pounds.

Coming full circle, Steve is also now also spending time with angling stints in his old stomping grounds of S/SW WI lakes namely some of the best and exploding Midwest fisheries. The Madison Chain, Lake WI, and the WI River, as well as other nearby Midwest emerging trophy fisheries, and of course stints in N WI Vilas County on the many lakes where Steve first forged his history and reputation. Regardless of where you step into Steve's boat, you will have made a great choice for not only a great time but a productive, memorable, and learning fishing experience.



# **The Marker Buoy<sup>6</sup>**

## **Fishing Garage Sale**

**The “Fishing Garage Sale” is scheduled for March 5th, 2023 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm at the Hoffman House.**

**As a “fundraiser” for the Rock Valley Anglers this year we have collected 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 cost of speakers has risen and our club is running on the lean side after covid.**

**Any questions? Please call Gary Vosberg at 815 262 2239.**



# The Marker Buoy<sup>7</sup>

**February Fish of the Month:** Scott Campbell caught a 10.5" crappie ice fishing on Deer Lake in Wisconsin on 2/4/23.





# The Marker Buoy<sup>8</sup>

## Recent Member Catches







# The Marker Buoy<sup>9</sup>

## Recent Member Catches



The above fish were both caught by member Tom Wesseln.



# The Marker Buoy<sup>10</sup>

## Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings As of 3/1/2023

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length (in inches)</u>
Smallmouth	No entry	
Largemouth	No entry	
Northern	No entry	
Muskie	No entry	
Catfish	No entry	
Walleye	No entry	



# The Marker Buoy<sup>11</sup>

## Angler of the Year: As of 3/1/2023

	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chris Olson				9	12	21
Scott Campbell					10.5	10.5
Tom Wesseln				9		9

## Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 3/1/2023

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chris Olson		9	12	21
Tom Wesseln	11	9		20
Scott Campbell			10.5	10.5



# The Marker Buoy<sup>12</sup>

## 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.**



# The Marker Buoy<sup>13</sup>

## **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.**



# The Marker Buoy<sup>14</sup>

## **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.**



# The Marker Buoy<sup>15</sup>

**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)**



# The Marker Buoy<sup>16</sup>

## **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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