



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

**February 2024**

**This Month's Meeting:** This month's club meeting will be held on Wednesday February 14th at 6:30 pm at the Hoffman House. Our February speaker is Jim O'Neil from Midwest Outdoors. He will be talking about multi species fishing on Lake Michigan from Waukegan Illinois to Milwaukee Wisconsin. His talk will include information about salmon fishing, trout fishing, smallmouth fishing, pike fishing, perch fishing, and walleye fishing.



Jim O'Neil is from Oak Forest, IL. He has 15 years and counting in the outdoor industry. Jim's passion started at Marist High School as an I.H.S.A. tournament bass fisherman.



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He is now a Television and Podcast host for MidWest Outdoors. Spending more than 100 days a year on the water, Jim is always on the hottest bites in the MidWest. Join us to learn how to catch more fish, bigger fish, and make some memories along the way!

**Membership Dues:** Yearly are 45 dollars this year and are due in March. Please bring 45 dollars to the February meeting or the March meeting. Dues can also be mailed to Stu Sondergarth or Bruce Youngberg.

**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 February:** 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!



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**January Fish of the Month:** The January Fish of the Month is 24.5 inch walleye caught on the Pecatonica River in Illinois by Chad Riesen on January 2, 2024.





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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 Votsberg for information.

**April All City Musky Night Raffle:** Our club will be raffling off a cooler filled with bottles of liquor at the All City Musky Night. We are asking club members to donate an unopened bottle of liquor for the raffle.

**Club outings:** Watch upcoming newsletters for 2024 club outings.



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## Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings As of 2/7/2024

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Angler</u> | <u>Length (in inches)</u> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Smallmouth     | No entry      |                           |
| Largemouth     | Chad Riesen   | 16                        |
| Northern       | Tom Wesseln   | 26.25                     |
| Muskie         | No entry      |                           |
| Catfish        | No entry      |                           |
| Walleye        | Chad Riesen   | 24.5                      |



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## Angler of the Year: As of 2/7/2024

|             | Largemouth | Smallmouth | Walleye | Bluegill | Crappie | Total Length |
|-------------|------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Chad Riesen | 16         |            | 24.5    |          | 10.5    | 51           |
| Chris Olson |            |            |         |          | 12.75   | 12.75        |

## Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 2/7/2024

| Angler      | Perch | Bluegill | Crappie | Total Length |
|-------------|-------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Chris Olson |       |          | 12.75   | 12.75        |
| Chad Riesen |       |          | 10.5    | 10           |





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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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## Recent Member Catches



On 1/24/24 Chris Olson caught a 12.75 black crappie caught on Lake Monona.



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## Recent Member Catches



A haul of fish caught by Chris Olson on Lake Monona on 1/24/24



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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: Chris Olson: phone: 608-290-7748 and email:  
[c.olson@msprecast.com](mailto:c.olson@msprecast.com)**

**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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