

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ November 11th ~  
Chapter Mtg. - Pool  
Demo
- ◆ November 20/21 ~  
Last Fling Outing @  
N. Webster, IN
- ◆ December 9 ~ **FAM-  
ILY NIGHT** and Lure  
Swap
- ◆ Jan 7 ~ Chapter Mtg -  
Steve Heiting

### What's inside

Nov. Mtg	2
Fundraiser Details	2
FRV Family Night	3
Stocking & Research	4
"Missing the Signs"	5
Announcements	6
Outing Highlights	7

# News Cast



NOVEMBER 2009

## From The Front Deck



Wow! We went from warm weather to frigid weather in a matter of just a few weeks!!! The 20+ days of below normal temperatures really did a number on the water temps on all of the lakes here in the Midwest! Turnover is complete on most, if not all of the lakes here in Northern Illinois, WI and MN. Water temps have plummeted dramatically and some lakes in Northern WI are already starting to skim over with ice!! Turnover can be especially frustrating for us musky hunters during this time, as the musky bite can be really tough. Typically the smaller lakes "flip" first and the larger lakes take much longer to turnover, due to their overall size & depth. Now that the turnover process is complete, we can get back to the business at hand-which is catching big Fall muskies!! Don't forget to keep a couple of sucker rods rigged and in

the water at all times when fishing in November, as ol' Esox can't resist a fat juicy sucker when the water temps are getting cold! Our final club outing to Webster Lake in Indiana is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Jimmy Z our Outings Director for additional details or check out the info on the FRV website. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall "Challenge on the Chain" was another huge success (see details inside this newsletter). Congrats to all of the winners and many thanks to all the FRV members who assisted us in running this event! We couldn't do it without all of your help!! I'd like to thank Chauncey Niziol from ESPN Outdoors, who once again did an awesome job as our M.C. Hope everyone had a great day on the water!! **Mark your calendars: the November 11<sup>th</sup> club meeting will NOT be held at PCCC.** This is Pool Demo night and the meeting will be held at the Dundee Township Park District Indoor Pool which is located at 665 Barrington Avenue in Carpentersville, IL. Lot's of pro-staffers and lure manufacturers will be there showing you how to work their baits properly. Many of them will also have baits to sell to FRV club members at a great discount. Note that **we will start the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30PM not 7:00PM** in the Senior Center. Frank from Frank's Custom Rods will give us a brief demo on how he builds those great musky sticks. We will also conduct our normal club business & raffles then proceed into the pool around 8:45PM for the lure demo. It should be a great time, I hope you can make it!! There will be no pizzas served this year as Village Pizza is closed, so make sure you grab something to eat prior to the meeting. As we move closer to the year-end; I'm looking for nominees to get on the 2010 FRV board of directors. If you are interested in being nominated for one of those open slots let me know and I will e-mail you a board of directors application. All approved nominees will be voted in during the December club meeting. If you're interested in making a difference, we'd love to have you join us on the FRV Board of Directors. Our December club meeting will be "Family Night". Kevin Bushnick, our Youth Director, will have a high energy, kick-butt multimedia presentation on the annual wrap up of all our Youth Outings for 2009. Lot's of goodies will be given away at this one and if you're a Van Halen fan...don't miss this meeting... it's a show stopper!!! Bring the kids, grandparents, neighbors and friends as this meeting will be one to remember. We will also conduct our lure swap and canned food drive at the December meeting. All canned goods donated will be dropped off at the Elgin Women's Shelter.

Until next month....hug a musky before it gets too cold!!

*Rick Gallagher*

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

**7:00 PM** Poplar Creek Country Club, 1400 Poplar Creek Drive, Hoffman Estates... near Barrington & Higgins (847) 884-0219.

**BOARD MEETINGS**

7:00 PM. Cabelas, on Monday following the General meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

**OFFICERS**

**Pres** Rich Gallagher  
(847) 741-9771

**VP** Dan Koniewicz  
(847) 658-0712

**Sec.** Steve Crook  
(847) 991-8011

**Treas.** Steve Kroll  
(773) 282-8749

**RVP** Dave Van Doorn  
(847) 636-2677

**2009 BOARD MEMBERS**

*Mike Zaborowski - Youths*  
(630) 458-1861

*Kevin Bushnick - Youths*  
(847) 987-3622

*Joe Alfe - Youths*  
(312) 437-0290

*Tony Hardin - Merchandise*  
(630) 816-5081

*Dave Hebeda - Tournaments*  
(847) 714-4493

*Mark Lamont - Newsletter*  
(847) 791-4766

*Ken Miller - Contests*  
(224) 217-8984

*Todd Minor - Speakers*  
(630) 229-3726

*Dan Lampkin - Show Coordinator*  
(815) 578-9467

*John Deutinger - Website*  
(847) 844-1132

*Jim Ziebka - Outings*  
(708) 452-7598

*Ken Sponseller - Membership*  
(630) 514-8018

*Mike Piorkowski - General Mtgs*  
(847) 650-5957

*Frank Lucido - Membership*  
(847) 934-5806

*Mark Rue - At Large*  
(773) 580-0513

**NOVEMBER MEETING****POOL DEMO!**

**Dundee Township Park District  
Senior Center and Pool  
Wednesday night, Nov. 11th**

We're not at PCCC this month! Instead we'll be meeting at:

Dundee Township Park District  
665 Barrington Ave.  
Carpentersville, IL 60110

Regular meeting starts at 7:30. Pool Demo begins at 9:00. No food will be served at this meeting, but you can instead throw some cash at Stealth Tackle, Lakeshore Lure Co., and Shack Attack. These bait/tackle companies will be there demonstrating and selling their baits at the cheapest prices!

**2009 CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN TOURNAMENT STANDINGS**

Boat #	Name 1	Name 2	Fish Inches
14	Rich Gallagher	Frank Bottiglieri	41.50
10	Russ Schaller	Chris Schaller	38.75
49	Gordy Linde	Rick Miscinski	37.00
13	Lance Zimmerman	Henry Alva	34.50
42	Gino Testone	Jim Caufield	33.25
8	Steve Kroll	Jerry Chwierut	30.25

**CONGRATS TO ALL THE LUCKY ANGLERS!**

**FRV 5th ANNUAL DINNER/SILENT AUCTION/  
FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 20th 2010  
POPLAR CREEK COUNTRY CLUB**

**Doors Open at 5 p.m.  
Buffet Dinner/Cash Bar  
Live Music**

**Silent Auction and Raffles for Great Prizes  
Awards for 2009 Fish Contest Winners**

**\$25 for Adults/\$15 for Kids under 12**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## FRV FAMILY NIGHT ~ DECEMBER 9th

The Fox River Valley Muskies Inc. Chapter is pleased to announce "Family Night" on Wednesday, December 9th starting promptly at 7:00pm. Through-out the evening, we will be showing off all our best pictures & videos in a multi-media presentation designed to high-light our youth events from 2009. We will also be featuring the music of Van Halen to coincide with the excitement everyone experienced during these awesome outings... AND if you attended one of the events below, chances are, you'll see yourself on the big screen at this meeting!

- ◆ The FRV Silver Lake Youth Muskie Hunt...
- ◆ The FRV/McGraw Wildlife Youth Muskie Hunt...
- ◆ The FRV/McGraw Wildlife "special needs kids" day of fishing...
- ◆ The FRV/McGraw "all girls" fishing outing...



**For this event only, we will have 3 awesome raffles...**

- 1) A "Frank's custom rod" (1 muskie & 1 spinning) with his famous Eddie Van Halen wrap... ( \$5 raffle)
- 2) An autographed set of the "Muskie Compendium" by legendary muskie historian, Larry Ramsell. (\$2 raffle)
- 3) A custom made "Eddie Van Halen" Phantom Lure... (\$1 raffle)

We only have 1-each of the rods, but we have 5-sets of the muskie compendium, and 10 EVH- Phantoms so you'll have plenty of chances to win.

**Adults are \$5 at the door; kids 16 and under are free.**



**Above ~** Long-time FRV Club member Bob Pyszka with a beautifully made fish. Bob is pulling up stakes and relocating to Missouri. Farewell and good luck Bob!

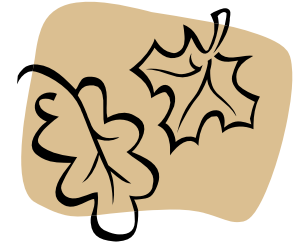
Many of you may have seen Bob Pyszka through the years at the monthly FRV club meetings. He was always seated on or near the front of the room, intently listening to our speakers and what they had to say. Bob was usually sitting next to his good friend Bob Podgorski often with a huge grin on his face simply enjoying the evening and the camaraderie. This soft-spoken, mild mannered gentleman made many friends in our Chapter and spent many quality hours fishing with FRV members on our club outings!! Well, after many years of deliberation, Bob has decided to move south for milder winters. Bob is relocating to Lee's Summit, MO. His presence at the monthly meetings will be sorely missed as well as his friendship. Bob we will miss you and we wish you well on your relocation to a new area and new waters!! If anyone wants to keep in touch with Bob his temporary e-mail address is: [rpyszka@yahoo.com](mailto:rpyszka@yahoo.com) His new mailing address is 601 NW Brookhaven Drive in Lee's Summit, MO. Best of luck Bob, please keep in touch!!

**STOCKING ...  
RESEARCH...  
WORKS!**

Thanks to a \$1,400 donation from the Fox River Valley Muskies Inc. Chapter's stocking fund, the Webster Lake Musky Club (Chapter 49) was able to stock 440 muskies in Upper Long Lake, Indiana. FRV recognizes how important it is to do everything we can to support strong muskie fishing opportunities... whether they be in state or across state lines! And Indiana waters have definitely been a strong choice for many local Chicago-area anglers.

In addition to this donation, FRV still plans on funding future stocking projects in S. WI waters like Lake Delavan and eventually Lake Geneva!

If you also feel that it's important to expand our fishable waters, help out and donate a few \$s to the cause at our next meeting! *Thank you.*



**ALMOST HOME!!** Maybe that's what these juvenile muskies were thinking as they were being prepared for release in the water of Upper Long Lake in Indiana!



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## ***Sucker Punched.... "Missing The Signs"***

One of the best parts of musky fishing is that in order to be successful, you have to be thinking all the time. This sport taxes the brain like few other outdoor pursuits. One of the worst parts of musky fishing is that in order to be successful, you have to be thinking all the time! How many of us have come back from an outing or a trip just dead-dog tired, physically yes, but especially mentally. Ask any great PGA golfer what's the hardest part of playing on tour and they will almost always tell you it's the mental exertion required to play at that level.

The mental gymnastics required in musky fishing are for me, a big part of what make it so enjoyable and so very challenging. It's a puzzle- a chess game if you will, and you have to *constantly* sum up where the game stands. Sometimes we're spot on and sometimes we strike out ...but the mental mathematics required are downright fun.

During a recent week-long autumn trip, my partner and I encountered rapidly changing conditions. Calm before the storm, unsettled and stormy weather, followed by big wind, high pressure and deep drops in air and water temperature. The first day, my partner had action from five different fish in just 2.5 hours. All on shallow structure, weeds and rock combined. The second day the front rolled through with rain, storms and shifting winds. I managed a decent 46" fish on shallow rock and timber. Interesting fish because it was a bit thin for its length and the fight was less than spectacular for its size, but a decent fish nonetheless. One other shorty boated on that second day and a couple other follows up tight to cover. Partner lost another good fish at the boat around sunset that second night on a figure eight. All in all not what we expected on a transition day- the front hadn't really produced some of the action we were expecting or hoped for. Day three saw very strong winds and bright sky and we moved off big water and had fun on a small lake chasing some smaller fish. Day four and the front settled in. Winds moved NNE, stayed hard, water temps continued to fall as did air temps. We continued to work beautiful patches of cabbage and rock and timber and moved only a few fish and caught another shorty. I lost a heartbreaker fish in early evening when an erratic glide bait was hammered by a very large fish in the 45-48" class that not only got the glide but got my line as well and snapped it like a guitar string. Note to self- never run a short leader on a wide-angle glide bait. Lost a \$22 bait on that one- ouch. Day five and the weather system continued with broken clouds, high NNE winds and dropping temps. Moved three fish all day- all in 15 minutes around moonrise, and caught one of them- a 29" whopper who thought he was 55". Day six produced another clear and windy day and we frothed the water to death with little to show.

Finally on day seven after the first half day without seeing a fish on the most beautiful cover, my partner looked at me and said "We're not seeing any bait- have you noticed that?". I thought about it and realized she was absolutely right.

For the past three or four days we hadn't chased up any shiners, any perch or any baitfish at all for that matter- no small bass- nothing. There was nothing in the shallows. So why would the predators be there? We consulted our partner for the week who had been doing some trolling and had managed a couple fish along the breaks and we decided it was time to give it a try. As soon as we set rods on our first trolling pass we noticed them: pods upon pods of bait- balled up over 35-40' of water with hooks underneath and besides them. Predators- taking advantage of off-shore meals. Yes- we'd taken the obligatory and sensible partner routine "cast-in and cast out" approach all week, but we weren't within reach of these fish when casting out. In 2 hours of trolling we'd had one big rip that we lost and boated a 33" fish just as the day ended. As we drove home on the following day, we realized our mistakes. First- we'd been sucker-punched by a couple of the remaining fish we'd seen up shallow earlier in the week. The 46" fish WAS thin for its size, probably sick, or dying, and up in a spot with virtually no food around. Quite simply- it shouldn't have been there at all! The others were predominantly on shallow spots early in the week- before the full effects of the front took hold. We took those assorted fish as a sign to mean that the fish were indeed up on shallow structure but just "weren't eating". First wrong assumption. Second, we assumed that when the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the front came along that we'd find stability and the fish would resume foraging up tight to cover. Wrong- they won't forage there if there isn't any food there. Third- we didn't use our technology. We'd been running all over during the week from spot to spot, but not paying attention to the balls of bait right under our noses as we crossed points and bays. I needed the electronics to slap me upside the head and say "Hey- Stupid- look down here".

While the week wasn't a bust by a long shot (how could it be- you're musky fishing all week after all!) - it didn't produce the fish that a fall trip should have when we worked as hard as we did. Yes, we lost nearly 11 degrees of water temperature in a week. Yes, we lost a couple very good fish that would have made it a much better week- but that's going to happen whether it's July or October so I discount that. Yes the winds did blow and air temps dropped steadily. But the fact is that a musky has to eat nearly 10% of their body weight a day to keep weight and we all know they put it on in the fall to prepare for the winter ahead. "Not eating" is not an option. They were eating- we just missed the signs. Next time maybe I'll pay more attention to those signs and I hope this example helps all of you with reading the signs too. Another great lesson in a fantastic, challenging and sometimes head-scratching sport. Happy trails and fat fish to all of you and if anyone comes across a firetiger Hellhound stuck into a high 40" pig of a fish with some 80# braid and a 9" leader connected, you can reach me at....

*The Preacher*

No... this isn't a picture from a Jimmy Buffet Fan Appreciation Convention. This is actually a snapshot of the majority of the Fox River Valley Chapter 39 Board of Directors. As scary as that they may look, they do actually get a few things done for the club.

But keeping FRV running is no simple task. And they can always use your help. If you feel like volunteering for a term, send Rich Gallagher a message or step up at a monthly meeting. Otherwise, feel free to vote these clowns... errr... I mean "esteemed colleagues" back in for another term at the December meeting!



**Above** - In no particular order... Steve Crook, Frank Lucido, Dan Koniewicz, Mark Lamont, Mike Piorkowski, Jimmy Ziebka, Todd Minor, Kevin Bushnick, Joe Alfe, Rich Gallagher, Steve Kroll, Ken Sponseller, Tony Hardin, John Deutinger, and Dave VanDoorn. *BOD not pictured* are Dave Hebeda, Mark Rue, Mike Zaborowski, and Ken Miller.



**Above** - Jim Collins with his biggest pike, a beautiful 38 incher. Jim boated this fish while fishing Lake Delavan with Aaron Zorn.

### FRV ... GOING GREEN?

Some of you might be thinking... *"It's about time!"*

Would you be okay with receiving the monthly newsletter either via email (attachment) or accessing the information about the club via our website? It's just something we're contemplating as an option to save the club printing/ mailing expenses.

Please let us know what you think at the next meeting or on the website.

**RubberHairy Tackle**  
*"It'll make the water boil"*

Kaukauna, WI (920)858-1659

OFFICIAL and UNOFFICIAL CLUB OUTINGS & EVENTS

◆ N. Webster, IN (Last Fling) Nov. 20 - 22

As always... for more details about FRV Outings, please visit our website and check out the "2009 FRV Outings & Events" forum.

The North Webster FRV sponsored outing will also follow the big fish plaque/traveling trophy format. Contact Jimmy Ziebka (Outings Director) if you have more specific questions.



On October 3rd, FRV-Muskies organized our first ever "girls day out" at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee, Illinois... At this outing, we went on a McGraw fisheries tour, we explored the "Pepper Trout Stream" and fed the fish, the girls participated in a pond study, and after a nice outdoor BBQ lunch, we headed out for the afternoon for some fun on the water fishing!



**Top** - Picture of 3 heroic servicemen home from overseas... now brave enough to fish the mighty Chain O'Lakes with FRV Members!  
**Bottom Right** - Club member Lance Zimmerman showing his daughter how it's done at the McGraw Outing.  
**Bottom Left** - Some girls *and* some guys getting an education at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation!



Fox River Valley Chapter  
P.O. Box 7613  
Algonquin, IL 60102

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Coming Attractions...

- ◆ Nov 11th - Pool Demo!
- ◆ Nov. 20 - Last Fling Outing on N. Webster Lake, Indiana
- ◆ Dec. 9th - FRV Family Night
- ◆ Jan. 7th - Steve Heiting



Interested in sponsorship for a tournament or advertising in a newsletter? Please contact board members Tony Hardin, Rich Gallagher, John Deutinger, or Mark Lamont for more information!

