

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 13th ~ Chapter Mtg - Howie Meyer
- ◆ June 5-7 ~ Chapter Outing - Mercer (N. WI)
- ◆ **NO MEETINGS for JUNE or JULY!!**
- ◆ Aug 12th ~ Chapter Mtg - Musky Tales and a Lure Building Class
- ◆ Sep. 9th ~ Chapter Mtg - Scott Birmingham
- ◆ Sep. 12—19 ~ Chapter Outing - LOTW at Grassy Narrows.

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# News Cast



MAY 2009

## From The Front Deck



Spring is finally here and the weather has remained unpredictable at best! We've seen huge swings in temperatures and lots of rain. These extreme swings have made it tough to pattern fish and establish steady fishing patterns for early season muskies. While we wait for the weather to stabilize, trees are starting to bloom, the grass is getting greener and the days are getting longer. For those of you who haven't been out yet, it's time to finally get that boat in the water! Get your checklists together & load up your tackle; because warming water temps equals muskies on the prow! Hopefully, all of us are ready to go as the 2009 musky season is now upon us! Many of our club members have already started musky fishing, as fish are already being registered into our 2009 Members Only Fishing Contest! E-mail your M.O.F.C. entries to Dan Koniewicz along with your photos, so that he can post them on the FRV website!!

As of this writing, our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Challenge on the Chain has concluded! This year, lake levels were well below flood stage which allowed us to run our boats at full speed! As usual, the weatherman was wrong, and disappointed 184 tournament anglers as the forecast was way off! Mother Nature brought some special guests to our tournament the morning of Saturday, April 25th.....Captain Cold Front & his partner High Winds!! Tournament anglers departed in 72<sup>o</sup> temps and by noon temps were below 50<sup>o</sup>! The 20-degree drop in temperature coupled with sustained winds of 15-25 MPH made fishing tough. It also caught a lot of teams underdressed! Many boats returned to tournament central to grab extra clothing, change out of shorts and into long pants and even don insulated rain gear. Nonetheless, all 92 teams bundled up, braved the elements and managed to catch & release 7 muskies!! Some muskies were caught trolling but the majority of fish were caught casting shallow water! Congrats once again, to FRV members Russ & Chris Schaller; who doubled up with catches of 36" and 32" muskies for a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish! In second place, Vince & Tom Stillo caught & released a nice 41" fish from Lake Catherine (also big fish winners!). In 3<sup>rd</sup> place the team of Gordy Linde and Rick Miscinski caught a healthy 38" fish trolling on Petite Lake. More tourney info can be found inside this month's newsletter. Many thanks to all of the anglers who participated, I hope you all had a great time and come back to fish this event again. I would also like to personally thank all of the FRV members for their time & efforts to help run this event; we couldn't have done it without all of you! Thanks also to Todd Minor, Mark Lamont, Kevin & Trevor Bushnick and Frank Lucido for manning the video boats! These guys braved the elements & high winds to capture all of the musky-catching action on tape. Mark Lamont also scored a fat 40" musky on Petite while waiting for a call from some lucky tournament angler. Unfortunately he wasn't fishing the tournament, but his video partner Todd Minor got some great footage of the catch & release! I hope we will see many of you back for our Fall Challenge!

Our upcoming May 13<sup>th</sup> speaker will be Howie Meyer who will be covering the ins & outs of fishing Presque Isle muskies. This meeting is timely, as many of us are heading out in June to Mercer on the FRV club trip, and many of the topics Howie is covering will be a great help to all of us. **FYI, the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last monthly club meeting before we break for the summer.** Our monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday August 11th. On a final note, there are several FRV members who will be fishing the PMTT on the Fox Chain on 5/1 and 5/2. We wish all of you the best of luck. Bring home those trophies and make us proud!!!

Until next month....grab a tiger by the tail!

*Rich 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 VanDoorn  
(847) 636-2677

**2009 BOARD MEMBERS**

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

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

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

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

*Ken Miller - Contests*  
(815) 545-9828

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Ken Sponseller - Stocking/Rsch*  
(630) 514-8018

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

*Frank Lucido - At Large*  
(847) 934-5806

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

**MAY MEETING**

On Wednesday May 13th, please join us as we welcome our featured guest Howie Meyer. Howie has been a guide for over 35 years and operates Seven Islands Guide Service in the Presque Isle area of northern Wisconsin. Howie's presentation will be "Methods you have not tried, baits you have not thrown, places you have not fished, all of which you should have." Howie has a knack for being ahead of the crowd and his presentation will be all about that!



For more about Howie, his guide service, and where he fishes, please visit his website <http://www.sevenislandsguideservice.com/>. We hope to see you all for this can't miss evening!



The photo on the left is an example of the size of some of the fish Howie has "introduced" to his clients on over the last few years.

Show up at PCCC on Wed. May 13th and listen to how he does it!

**MAY MEETING MENU**

The dinner will be a **PIZZA BUFFET** and **COOKIES FOR DESSERT**. The cost is **\$12.00**/adults and **\$6.00** for kids 12 and under. If you plan on joining us for dinner, please **RSVP** on the "May 13th Club Meeting" thread (on the FRV website) or email Rich Gallagher at [RG3232@aol.com](mailto:RG3232@aol.com) by 5/8/09.

**HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!**

Don't forget. At every monthly meeting we will **ALWAYS** be collecting magazines or DVDs in a box in the corner of the meeting room. (Remember... we're collecting for both men and women in the service).

Donations will be shipped to our brave soldiers within days of collection. Thanks for your help and support!

## ODDS and ENDS

### FRV Supports Our Fishing Future!

A month or so ago, FRV put together a road trip to the downstate Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery. Club members who made the trip were impressed with what they saw... so when we heard that the Illinois Muskie Alliance (on behalf of the IDNR) was looking for donations for pond rearing equipment, the Chapter was more than happy to step up and help out.

So, courtesy of FRV, the ponds holding the *future* of muskie fishing are now equipped with two new paddle wheel motors. The motors drive the paddle wheels, which in turn serve to increase water flow and aeration necessary to raise healthy young muskies. The final tab of both motors together was around \$1,050.00, and the check that our Chapter cut from our Stocking and Research fund was considered money well spent! When one of these young fingerling muskies eventually finds its way to one of your lines, we're sure you'll agree.

**Remember the FRV mission ~ YOUTH, FISHERIES, RESEARCH and COMMUNITY**

### Jake Wolf Memorial Tournament ~ May 16<sup>th</sup>, Fox Chain

Visit the FRV Website, and check the post titled "**Jake Wolf Tournament Information**" under the *FRV News & Announcements* forum. You'll find everything you need to sign up for this great tournament sponsored by the IMA, and hosted by the South of the Border Chapter. The entry fee for this event is \$60 per person, and there should be several FRV members in attendance.

This is a fun tournament to fish. If you end up going, let us know how you did! Thanks.

### **PICTURE YOUR FACE HERE....**

From June until our next meeting in August... a lot of you are going to be spending time on the water. Fishing a new lake? Teaching someone how to fish? Watching your kids catch fish? Take pictures! Take video! Write a paragraph or two about a trip, or a technique. There's a good chance it'll find its way into this newsletter. Maybe you'll even end up on an FRV video? Or maybe even TV?! Either way, we're always looking for material for the newsletter. We *really* want to know what you did all summer!

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## SPRING CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN



Saturday morning, April 25th, dawned with much hope and promise for musky anglers from northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and even northwest Indiana. The breeze was steady, the temperature was warm, and the FRV Challenge on the Chain *seemed* to be starting off on the right foot. The conditions were so promising that 92 teams threw their hat into the ring. Twenty two of the 92 teams signed up on tournament morning! The photo at **left** captures the seemingly "ideal conditions" that awaited the participants at the time of take-of.

Out of the gate, many boats reported seeing fish almost immediately. And the weather seemed to be cooperating! The winds were picking up out of the southwest, but the temperatures were warm and steady and there was

a dull overcast. Things were really looking up! But as luck would have it, Mother Nature once again decided to throw down on tournament day. Beginning around 9:30, she unleashed a series of punishing and shifting winds, torrential rain, dangerous lightning, and hail. Conditions forced many boats to temporarily beat a hasty retreat to covered boat slips, launches, and even to the tournament headquarters at the Thirsty Turtle.

But as most of us realize, unstable weather is par for the course in northern Illinois in April... and most of the tourney participants continued pounding the waters for the elusive Esox. Some boats even managed to catch a musky right up until around 12:30. One 38 incher was witnessed by an FRV camera boat as a front was passing thru the area. At this point, however, Ma Nature decided to issue one more definitive smack-down to the FRV 2009 Spring Challenge on the Chain. As club president Rich Gallagher so eloquently put it, she introduced her friends "Captain Cold Front and his partner



**Clockwise from right:**

Rick Miscinski stuck this 38 incher right before the cold front to secure 3rd place.

*Below right*, Vince Stillo lifts a beautiful 41 inch fish. This was Vince's first IL muskie, was the Big Fish of the tournament, and helped his team land in second place. Not bad!

On the *Left*, Scott Urquhart is pictured with a 37 and 3/4 inch fish. Good enough to place his team in 4th place.



SPRING CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN ... CONTINUED

High Winds!" From this point on action "slowed" considerably. In fact, some would say it just stopped! Unlike many previous tournament events, the line of boats waiting for a turn to trailer up began at 2:30. Fortunately for them, a big warm tent with cold beer awaited our cold, wet, and tired masses.

But that's not where an FRV Tournament ends! MC Chauncey Niziol then entertained the anglers and announced all of the winners. Everyone lined up at the tables and consumed large quantities of great food and drink. Afterwards, Chauncey then presided over all the raffles provided by the club. New FRV Merchandise Director Tony Hardin provided a fantastic lineup of prizes/items for anyone who cared to spend a few extra bucks to buy raffle tickets.

Though fishing was tough...in the end, everyone had a great time. The food, entertainment, and company was excellent and tournament was another huge success. And we'll be doing it again this fall! See you then!

**FISHING REPORT:**

Stats collected in the tent at the conclusion of the tournament revealed no definitive pattern for success that day. Most fish were caught in shallow water from the far northern lakes all the way down to the southern-most lakes of the Chain. Bait types were varied, but seemed to be on the smaller side. Water temps where fish were caught ranged from 52 to 60 degrees.



**Above:** Chad Asprooth and his 35 incher secured a 6th place finish for his team.

**Below:** Spring Challenge Champs Russ and Chris Schaller with their first place trophies as MC Chauncey Niziol looks on in awe.



The Fox River Valley Chapter of Muskies Inc. wishes to thank all of our participants, sponsors, donors, and organizers. YOU are what makes US a great club!

Position	Boat #	Name 1	Name 2	Fish Inches	Fish Points	Total Points	Lure	Time	Method
1	14	Russ Schaller	Chris Schaller	36.00	10.00		Vibrax Twin	8:05	Casting
1	14	Russ Schaller	Chris Schaller	32.00	6.00	16.00	Grim Reaper	8:50	Casting
2	7	Vince Stillo	Thomas Stillo	41.00	15.00	15.00	Mepps #5	11:30	Casting
3	91	Gordy Linde	Rick Miscinski	38.00	12.00	12.00	Baby Depth Raider	12:30	Trolling
4	56	Scott Urquhart	Nick Cammarata	36.75	10.75	10.75	Swim Wiz	2:00	Trolling
5	11	Jerry Chwierut	Steve Kroll	36.25	10.25	10.25	Big Game Crank	11:55	Casting
6	34	Chad Asprooth	Mike Witowski	35.00	9.00	9.00	Killer Eel	3:00	Casting
7	28	Roger Tryczynski	Rich Dawidiuk	(Took 7th place by random drawing)					
8	18	John Fallon	Keith Cortopassi	(Took 8th place by random drawing)					
9	4	Dennis Leopold	Greg Wisniewski	(Took 9th place by random drawing)					
10	92	Jeff Kozlowski	Carl Fremgan	(Took 10th place by random drawing)					

## FRV OUTING ON LAKE KINKAID

Another year and another outing to this beautiful in-state body of water is on the books. From Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at least 20 FRV members fished the clear waters of Lake Kinkaid. Searching for southern Illinois muskies.

According to reports, the conditions and weather on Thursday evening and Friday were fairly reasonable for some good fishing. Temperatures were in the upper 60s... water temps were on the way up in the coves and bays. Fish were on the move too. Though it appeared that the spawn was underway, a couple fish were hooked and lost, and many others were seen by members all over the lake system. Not long after daybreak on Saturday, however, the weather did what it often does in Illinois in March. It did an about face. Heavy but sporadic rains began falling interspersed with rumbles of thunder. Muskie action slowed considerably at this point. Interestingly enough, at around 2 p.m. on Saturday, the skies cleared temporarily and the temperatures spiked. With the passage of this mini warm front, boats all over Lake Kinkaid seemed to simultaneously experience a feeding window for large bass! The picture on the **right** of FRV Youth Director Kevin Bushnick's personal best largemouth (6 lbs plus) is representative of the action during that 1 to 2 hour stretch. Another bass over 7 lbs was caught on the northwest end of the lake during this same period! But just as quickly as it came, the nice weather departed with finality. The winds shifted, temperatures dropped, and the rains returned.



Most of the FRV members in attendance capped off a long day on the water by gathering at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bar and Grill in Murphysboro on Saturday night to trade reports and stories. Despite the poor fishing conditions, everyone left in high spirits and with full stomachs.

Sunday morning arrived and delivered conditions more harsh than Saturday afternoon! Colder temps, higher winds, and intermittent rain greeted the fishermen that decided to stick around and try their luck in the morning. By noon, the poor conditions hastened the end of the outing for most of the folks that made the trip.

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

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By all reports, not one muskie was *officially* boated by a member during that outing. But it sure wasn't for lack of trying. Like most other outings, everyone gave it their all and had a good time. Even with the difficult fishing conditions often experienced this time of year, there's something about Lake Kinkaid that will draw most of these fisherman back south for another shot next spring. If you didn't make the trip this year, hope to see **you** there!

## OFFICIAL and UNOFFICIAL CLUB OUTINGS

Month	Speaker	Topic
January 8th	Joe Bucher	Musky Fishing, Now & Then
February 11th	Chad Cain	Kincaid Muskies
March 11th	Russ Wayre	??
April 8th	Tom Ustaszewski	LOTW Muskies
May 13th	Howie Meyer	Presue Isle Muskies
June 10th	No Meetings	
July 8th	No Meetings	
August 12th	Musky Tales & Lure Building Class	TBD
September 9th	Scott Bermingham	Musky Fishing Tactics
October 14th	Adam Oberfoell	Madison Chain Muskies
November 11th	Pool Demo	Pool Demo
December 9th	Home Brew, Food Drive & Lure Swap	Dave VanDoorn & Jim Edwards
January 7th	Steve Heiting	Canadian Shield Muskies?

www.frvmuskie.com

### 2009 OUTINGS

- ◆ Mercer Area (WI) June 5-7
- ◆ LOTW - Angle Outpost July 11-18
- ◆ LOTW - Grassy Narrows Sep. 12-19
- ◆ N. Webster Nov. 20 - 22

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

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

### ***MAY IS OUR LAST REGULAR MEETING... until AUGUST!!!***

We will not have any meetings in June or July, but we have a new regular meeting at Poplar Creek Country Club in **August**. As you can see from the schedule grid above, our meeting speaker/topic will be Musky Tales and a Lure building class. Musky Tales is a local multi-faceted musky gear business best known as the pioneer of the "home show". To learn more, visit their website at [www.muskytales.com](http://www.muskytales.com).

**Feedback or comments on an AUGUST MEETING? Sign on to the FRV website and let us know how you feel. Thanks.**



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P.O. Box 7613  
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Coming Attractions...

- ◆ May 13th - General Mtg ~ Howie Meyer
- ◆ June 5 - 7 ~ Mercer, WI, Club Outing
- ◆ July 11-18 ~ LOTW, Club Outing



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!

