



MoMuskie News

April 2009

Reetz's Pieces

What a bunch of good guys and gals these fishers are! Happy to be out with Mother Nature glad to have the wind in their face, getting wet with spray, wearing life jackets over wind breakers or rain gear. Searching for the elusive Muskie, predators among predators, trying to keep control of the boat, twisting and turning in their seat, attempting to toss a lure at the place you'd really like it to land. Only to see the chartreuse buck tail hanging three feet above the water line with a double loop twist attaching it securely to the

pucker brush. That's why I find it necessary to carry pruning sheers in the boat. Much easier to retrieve the lure, believe me, I've had lots of practice.

Denis Ledgerwood set the dinner up, and Jim Smith grilled the fillets to perfection. The guests from the Shawnee Muskie Hunters were gracious about the lack of participation by the Muskies.

Lunches' were eaten in a quiet spot out of the wind. The bucking of the boat had Remember, the Catch, ceased, sandwiches, coffee, Clean; Eat Outing will be brought renewed vim and vigor to everyone. Plans were renewed and strategy plotted, alas to no avail. No Muskies were caught and released, no follows detected, no Muskies were seen.

Remember, the Catch, Clean; Eat Outing will be April 4, beginning at 8 am to 4 pm with the fish fry beginning at 5pm, with a short meeting after. Hope to see you there. The fish is already in the freezer. Doug Hutchison is running this event.

BUT, charcoal smoke led us all to the best steak this has ever had. We need a secretary. Not much work. No pay. We'll be grateful.

Contents

Reetz Pieces.....	1
New Fishing Buddy.....	2
Border War.....	3
Critter Cabin Report.....	4
Critter Cabin Report.....	5
Crappie Outting.....	6
Information Page.....	7
Chapter Officers.....	8
2009 Calendar.....	9

Earle Hammond has been named as a Regional Director by the powers that be in MI and I am sure we can look forward to him doing his normal great job in that capacity. We now need to elect a new RVP from our Chapter so if you are interested be sure to let our President know. Your help will be appreciated.

By Loren Gruber

We lose fishing partners. Some pass away, some grow feeble, some move away. Now that Spring is upon us, teach a new fishing partner. Your child. Your grandchild.

Remember that a youngster's attention span and patience are not as long as yours. Keep the trip short and fun.

I took my two daughters and son fishing when they were about two years old. The drive to the lake was longer than their first 10- or 15-minute stay on the shore. But they enjoyed landing some hungry blue gills nonetheless.

The next trips lasted a few minutes longer. Pretty soon, they would fish for about an hour landing blue gill after blue gill. There was an added bonus in the evening—they spotted birds, rabbits, and deer feeding nearby. They learned more than fishing.

Now, they are willing to spend a day casting for muskies.

And so does my grade-school-aged grandson. He can't wait to get in the boat and start casting small muskie lures with his open-faced spinning rig loaded with 50-pound test TUF-Line.

On his first fishing trip, three-year-old Alec jigged a minnow and skunked his dad and me. It was Father's Day

morning, and he landed a jumbo perch and a nice northern.



The pesky perch were biting short, so Steve was busy replacing the minnows on Alec's jig. I tried to give Steve a break, but he wouldn't let me.

"I appreciate you all the more now, Dad."

"Why's that?"

"When I was Alec's age, you were always baiting my hook and landing fish. You couldn't fish as much as you wanted to."

"That's the best Father's Day present you ever gave me," I said.

We don't have to bait Alec's hook now. By the time he was five, he learned how. He kept pleading to cast one afternoon, and we kept telling him that we would teach him how on the beach before supper. We didn't

dangling from our ears..

Steve and I thought the matter was settled—and that Alec was tending to his jig and minnow. When we weren't looking, he had snapped a Rapala to his leader.

"Alec! Where did you learn to cast?"

"By watching you and Dad."

An expert fishing partner in five minutes.

The reason my children and my grandson love to fish is because I kept it simple—and fun.

When my kids were little, we explored under rocks, around tree stumps, and in the garden for night crawlers. After we dug a dozen, we put them in a coffee can with some moist topsoil and a damp paper towel.

Little hands can handle a sectioned bamboo pole, rigged with mono filament tied at the base, knotted in intervals up to the tip, with enough line to reach just past the bottom. A small split-shot sinker, a hook suitable for the fish you're going after, and a bobber is all you need.

**Continued on
Page 6**

BORDER WAR

By Denis Ledgerwood

March 7th had different weather from the first 2 Border Wars or Pomme/Shawnee Challenge. We had warm weather but 20 - 30 mph winds. In some spots we had 2' rollers! Needless to say fishing sucked!

5 boats from Shawnee and 14 boats from Pomme and we couldn't catch a Muskie. We fished shallow, we fished deep, we fished the backs of coves, main lake points, muddy water, clear water, in fact with the wind some casts landed in no water. The sum of the catches were 2 buffalo, 1 carp, 1 white bass and 1 gizzard shad. None of which counted.

The bright spot is that Pomme retains the plaque although the tab for 2009 will read **SKUNKED!**

With no winners the beautiful jackets made by Coach were raffled off and there was appropriately there was 1 winner from each chapter, it was a real tie.

We found a new steak cooker in Jim Smith who did an outstanding job. Thanks Jim. Helping in the culinary duties where Mary Hammond and Audrey Neely, again doing an exemplary job.

Thanks to all who participated and helped out. Next year, at Kinkaid hosted by the Shawnee Muskie Hunters and we WILL officially get to keep the plaque!

Thanks to Dale Cornelius for his presentation about the vegetation project that the chapter and the MDC have been involved in for the past five years.

May 2nd - Can you guide? - We need guides for Muskie Mayhem so if you can - please contact Todd Hardin at

(636) 296-6902

Also, if there is an area of the rod you think is not up to your standards, they will know who built the rod and that person will be held accountable. One last thing I'll get off my chest now that I am in the right mood.

If you are ever returning a reel still under warranty, and are promised a **DIFFERENT NEW ONE**, use a marker of some kind and put a small mark on an area of the reel, where only you can see it. That way, when you get your next **NEWER** reel, you will know for sure you did not get the same old one back. This recently happened to me, and I caught the S.O.B.s red-handed. After much back and forth garbage, almost 8 months worth of it, I finally got what I thought was a fair deal. Also, do not bother sending a letter directly to the guy that sponsors the Truex, Jr. car in Sprint Cup. He will not read it and he could care less for any of us. Whew!!!
Until next month, **Jay**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

What I guess I am saying is one might be a great fisherman, but that does not necessarily mean you are good at casting and handling a reel without using a steel cable for line. I do know that I cast farther and more accurately with the rigs with the lighter line. I'm not talking 2 lb. test here! One more thing: The same guy promotes St. Croix rods, particularly the Legend Tournament line. If you really like one of these rods, check it out **COMPLETELY**. Look down the guides from the handle, and make sure the

guides are all lined up as straight as can be. There is simply no excuse for a rod having its guides offline one iota, especially for the highly inflated price you will pay for one of these rods. I have worked on a couple of these rods, and the guides looked like they were lined up by Foster Brooks! (Remember him?) If you are able to afford one of these rods, I would suggest to look around at some of the rod builders available available (Thorne Bros. first comes to mind) and you will be happy.

THE CRITTER CABIN REPORT

By Jay Richman

Hello again to all! Sure enough, after getting last month's newsletter and going over (AGAIN) what I had written, I found one small mistake. On the newer Calcutta's, the "B" models, the handle paddles come off by loosening the screws clockwise, just like the TE models. The old Calcutta paddles unscrew counter-clockwise, like I had written. I hope this hasn't caused any problems to anyone.

Okay, on to the article. I'll deal with cog wheels, line guides, and other things. The cog wheel, also called an idler or idle gear, is inside the palm side cover on most of the larger reels, and just inside of the main drive gear on most of the smaller reels. The larger reels would be the Daiwa / St. Croix 300 models, most Shimano models 300 and larger, any Pflueger 56 & 66 / Maina 400, any model ABU in the 4000 to 6000 series, and others. The smaller reels would be the Daiwa / St. Croix 253 models and lower, some Shimano 300 reels and all 250 or lower reels, the newer Maina PM-20 and almost all other low-profile reels. I'll deal only with the reels with the cog wheel on the palm side in this article, since the other reels would be very difficult to describe how to take down so extensively.

So, what does the cog wheel do? First of all, it is driven by the spool pinion gear (there are many other names for it) which

is fastened to the spool by various methods. In turn it drives the end of the line guide worm gear, also called carriage screw, and a lot of other colorful names when it's not working. On a newer ABU the cog wheel is held onto a post by simply snapping it onto the post. When they changed the configuration of this part 14 years ago or so I went nuts. The older parts were pretty much the same thing, except they weren't snapped onto the post, they were held on with a small "C" snap. Which, at least to me, means easy disassembly, cleaning, and lubrication. With the newer parts, this isn't possible unless you shave off the small nipple, which holds it on, and then use a small "C" snap (same part number as the old ones) to hold it on. For those of you that have an ABU and it squeals on every cast, a dry gear is most likely the cause. Not the meshing of the gear teeth, but dryness on the post holding the cog wheel in place, and the fast-turning cog wheel is the squealer. Unless you shave off the nipple and apply a "C" snap, all you can do to this is apply a small amount of oil to the tip of the post, but this will make a mess if you put on too much. Even on the new Records, which has a small bearing at the base of the cog wheel, the cog wheel snaps onto the post. How are you supposed to lube the bearing if you can't even get to it? This is why I always snip off the

nipple and apply a snap on all ABU's I get. Just remember the post needs to be greased a bit before reassembly. On the Shimano 400's the cog wheel is held in place by a small screw just outside what's called the brake ring. There are 2 small Phillips screws and one large regular screw holding the cover on, the latter being down by the reelfoot. After taking off the whole crank side assembly with the 2 (older) or 3 (newer) thumbscrews and pulling out the spool, remove all 3 screws mentioned earlier. The palm side cover will easily come off. Be aware of a small brass washer between the cog wheel and the inside of the frame. The cog wheel sits on a post, which must be cleaned and lubed. Last month I wrote about the TE models and the brake case. If you went this far, the cog wheel is right there, waiting to be cleaned and lubed. One small screw, a small post, and a washer is all that needs to be removed to get to the cog wheel. Use grease on both models.

On the Daiwa / St Croix reels, the palm side cover totally unscrews, which is very nice. The cog wheel is held on with a screw onto a post. Some disassembly of the cover might be needed to remove the post, as it's press fit into the cover and also has Loktite on it. You might be able to wiggle the post just enough to loosen it and then the cog wheel can be removed. For some reason, this part, like the ABU, is also a screamer when dry, while a dry Shimano gear doesn't scream. I can only figure it will because the parts are of a different type of plastic or nylon. If you can't remove the post, apply a small amount of oil to the tip of the post.

On the Pflueger and Maina reels, the cog wheel is screwed into a set plate which is then screwed into the frame. A lot is involved in the removal of everything needed, but I'll give you the shorter version. Remove the crank side with the 2 thumbscrews and also remove the spool. On the inside of the palm side cover you'll see 2 Phillips screws. Remove them, tap on the spacer where the axle contacts it, and the cover will pop off.

From here not much else can be done unless you remove a few more screws and springs, so all I'll tell you is to put a small amount of oil on top of the post where you'll see a screw holding the cog wheel in place. It looks like the cog wheel will pop right out, but it will not because of clearance trouble.

Getting to the line guide worm gear, different manufacturers seem to tell you different ways on how to lubricate the gear. Some say to use oil, and others say grease. I've always used grease, and this is after using oil once just to see what it would do. Oil makes one heck of a mess, and it does not repel water as well as grease, either. Apply the grease evenly across the worm gear, while using a finger to push it into the cuts. If you are cleaning this part and it is not removed from the reel, do not forget to apply a small dab of grease onto the pawl, after cleaning the guide itself. The pawl slightly turns as it follows the cuts in the gear, and if this part is dry, all parts involved will wear prematurely. Make sure the guard is always dirt-free. Of all the reels I have been talking about here, the ABUs ride along the guard tighter than the others.

It is a good idea to lightly oil the guard on the ABU reels. One drop will do. Same with the Daiwa. The Shimano's worm gear is more exposed to the elements than any of the other brands, so it will be important to keep the worm gear well-lubed. The Shimano's and Pflueger's line guide is held in place by a part called the level wind guide", which is a thin metal rod that goes through the guide itself. Keep this part clean and free of weeds, etc. On the ABU and Daiwa, the top of the guide runs along a slot in which the guide follows, much like the level wind guide mentioned above, and of course this area on both reels needs to be kept clean. On to other things. I have read a few stories lately about our addiction", and a couple well-known guys are saying to use nothing less than 80 lb. braid. One in particular, who is the editor of a popular (not in my house) muskie magazine, almost comes out and says you cannot land a fish unless you do go that heavy with your line. The article was in *Midwest Outdoors* and there was hardly anything I agreed with in the whole article. I have used 50 and 65 lb. braid for the past 10-12 years, and I have not had any of the problems I am supposed to be having. I do have a reel spooled with 80 lb. like I am supposed to" but that will only because it was free.

Continued on page 3



1st. Annual Pomme de Terre “Catch and ~~Release~~” Outing EAT

On April 4th all members and guests are encouraged to attend the first annual (I think) Chapter “Catch and Eat” outing. Fisherman will aggressively, I hope, pursue Crappie, Walleye, White Bass, and Blue Gill to provide the main course for dinner that evening. Dinner will be at the Masonic Lodge in Hermitage. No Carp, Buffalo, or Catfish please.

Fisherman will meet at the State Park Marina at or before 8:00 AM and fish until 4:00 PM. Fishermen should filet their catch and bring them to the Masonic Lodge in Hermitage by 5:00 PM where they will be expertly deep fried and combined with the appropriate side dishes and desserts to provide a memorable dinner.

In addition to your providing the fish, a \$5.00 per person fee will be charged to cover the side dishes and dessert. Soft drinks and coffee will also be provided. Of course, bring whatever adult beverages you feel will complement what I'm sure will be a delicious fish dinner.

Please notify me via e-mail at douglashutchison@charter.net or telephone at 636-949-0854 as soon as possible that you intend to participate. Please mail checks made out to the Pomme de Terre chapter, Muskies Inc. before March 30th to Douglas Hutchison, 3424 Foxborough Circle, St. Charles, MO 63301.

This is the first chapter event that I will act as chairman. Apparently I failed to attend the annual planning meeting, received a call during the meeting from Denis Ledgerwood to ask if I thought a spring fish fry would be a popular club event. I said that I thought that it would be. Denis said thanks and hung up. Apparently that is sufficient to indicate that I had volunteered to chair the outing and I am happy to do so. But just a word of caution, it is probably a good idea to attend the annual planning in person and if you get a phone call from Denis be very careful how you respond.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend. I'm sure it will be a great time and unlike the recent Border Challenge I'm sure lots of fish will be caught. But, fishing is fishing and if you have some filets stashes away in the freezer it couldn't hurt to have them in reserve. See you at the lake! Oh yeah, I hope we all have a Crappie day.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JIM HARDISON
ROUTE 2 Box 2366
HERMITAGE, MO
65668
417-745-6121

Janddhar@centurytel.net

DENNIS EDELHUBER
5026 S. TWJUNGA
SPRINGFIELD MO
65810-1920

fisherman9285@yahoo.com

DAN BODAS
HC77 - #1042B
PITTSBURG MO
65724
417-852-4448

D.bodas@hotmail.com

**IF YOU CAN GUIDE ON MAY 2, 2009
FOR MUSKIE MAYHEM PLEASE
CONTACT TODD HARDIN AT
TODDH@MISSOURIMUSKIES.ORG**

OR TELLY HIM AT

(636) 296-6902

HARBOR RESTAURANT IS OPENING IN APRIL

Kelly (mother) and Kenny (son) are going to be opening the Harbor Restaurant located at the Harbor Marina by the dam.

They have made this offer to tournament fisherman that they will give 10% off on all purchases during a tournament. They will get up as early as need be to serve breakfast if so requested. They want our business so stop in and see them.

They stopped by at our dinner following Border Wars and had a sampling of BBQ Beef and Turkey. If the meals are anything like the samples it will be some excellent food. More info on our website

NOTICE

**1 week after Border Wars / Chapter Challenge
Coach & Earle had caught 3 muskies and lost a few others.
It would appear that the water temperature is warming up to the
liking of our targeted fish! (3/18/09) Water is 52 degrees.**

FISHING PARTNER

Continued from page 2

Then it's off to the lake-shore. We always went to a curve in the bank next to an overhanging tree. Bluegills always gobbled our night crawlers.

There's nothing more exciting than seeing a youngster catch the first fish. It's always a monster.

Safety first, though. When I took my two-year-old daughter, Liz, to the lake, she cried out, "Walk on water!" and charged to the lake with me lumbering after.

She was faster, but fortunately I was able to grab her shirt and lift her out of the water before she sank. They didn't have life vests for kids in those days. Now they do, so make sure your kids and grand kids wear theirs.

O.K. So what do you do when your kids and grand kids are teenagers, but casting for muskies is frustrating? And bored?

One summer, my younger daughter Margaret and my son were extremely frustrated after casting to the reeds and running through the cabbage. No muskies, no northern's, no perch—not even a single rock bass.

We switched to shiners and quarter-ounce jigs.

"Dad! We're too far from the weeds!" Margaret said. "Now we won't catch anything!"

"We weren't catching anything in the weeds, anyway," I replied. "We're drifting to the drop-off. So get ready."

As I finished my sentence, Margaret and Steve hooked Three - and four-pound northern's. They had their limits within a half-hour.

Artificial's are fun, but natural baits yield more, especially if you're willing to go after the bait fish. In multi-species lakes where muskies roam, take your kids fishing for perch, rock bass, largemouth bass, walleyes, and northern's.

And be ready. Your new fishing buddies might just hook a muskie when they least expect it!



Chapter Officers

President Roger Reetz

Secretary Brenda Nunn

Vice President Wayne Humphrey

Regional Vice President Earle Hammond

Treasurer Fred Wehrli

At-Large-Director Dick McPike

St. Louis VP Jeff Thompson

Kansas City VP Paul Sharringhausen

Tournament Director Fred Dearborn

Release Chairman Jon Hunt

Membership Chairman Gary Neely

Kids Day Chairman Dan Diemert

Merchandise Chairman John Hanley

Newsletter Editors Earle Hammond & Gary Neely

Webmaster Earle Hammond

There have been several people asking who the Chapter Officers were so we are going to put this in every newsletter to assist those who do not have internet access.

- ~~January 7-11~~ Kansas City Sport Show
- ~~February 6-8~~ Columbia Sport Show Meeting
- ~~February 11-15~~ St. Louis Sport Show
- ~~March 7~~ Chapter Challenge, Meeting, Dinner at Pomme
- ~~March 21~~ Chapter Challenge backup date
- April 4 Crappie Outing with shore lunch & meeting
- May 2 Muskie Mayhem, meeting & meal
- May 16 Trolling Party
- June 6 Prime Time Tournament, lunch & meeting
- July 18 Pomme de Tour on Lindley Arm
- July 25 Kids Day – State Park Marina meal & meeting
- August 15 Pomme de Tour Pomme Arm
- August 23-29 Chapter Challenge – Leech Lake
- September 19 Guide For A Day, meal & meeting
- October 2-4 Fall Tournament
- October 17 Guide For A Day, meal & meeting
- November 7 White Bass Outing, meal & meeting
- December 5 Planning Meeting 10 AM meal

For further information on these activities please check the website. For those who do not have access to the web please call either Gary 417-852-7126 or Earle 417-993-0035 and we will send you a copy of the activities fully explained.

**POMME DE TERRE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES, INC
MEMBERSHIP FORM - Chapter #5**

Renewal ___ MI # ___ New Member ___ JR. Member ___
Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

DOB (Required) _____ Junior DOB _____

*Regular Membership \$35 1-Year, \$65 2-Years \$95 3-Years
Family Membership \$47.50 1-Year \$90 2-Years \$132 3-Years
Junior Membership (up to 18 years of age) \$20 per year*

To Qualify For Muskie Mayhem A 3 Year Membership Is Required

Make checks payable to **Muskies, Inc.** and then send to:
Muskies, Inc C/O Gary Neely P.O. Box 99 Pittsburg, Mo. 65724
Any questions call 417-852-7126

FROM Pomme de Terre Chapter of MI
P.O. Box #5
Hermitage, Mo. 65668

TO: