

Earle Hammond, Editor
Gary Neely, Editor



MoMuskie News

March 2009

Reetz's Pieces

Border Wars?

By
President
Roger Reetz

What in the sam hill are they talking about? Lord only knows. Is it free states against a bunch of rebels from Missouri? Or maybe it's the KU vs. Mizzu basketball game. It could be that Johnson County has closed State Line Avenue.

It's almost 5pm on Friday afternoon, I've had a busy time after lunch, cleaned some reels, took a nap, trecked out to the mail box, fixed myself a little DeWars (medicinal purposes only), and sat down to review the bills, advertisements, & other pieces of junk mail. When lo and behold a letter addressed to me personally jumps out of the pile.

It's from our chapter 5 Vice President Wayne Humphrey, He's the person talking about this **BORDER WAR**.

Generally, Wayne knows what he's talking about especially when the out come is "including post-outing STEAK dinner". There ain't no war going on. After a little investigation it turns out that this is a friendly dinner to celebrate a great day on the water spent with our friends from over east on the other state line. These fine fellows come over every other year to find out if our fish are bigger than the Muskies in Illinois. More importantly to see who are the better Muskies

To get a win for ourselves is easy. Catch & Release more Muskies than they do. More fisherpersons should translate to more Muskies. Me, I'm going to be there, on March 7th. My partner and I will beat the water to a froth. You and your partner need to be welcome these boys from Illinois. Show them a good day of fishing, while our boys and girls do the trophy. Then have Denis fix us all a fine steak. The Shawnee Muskies Hunters will be on our home lake if you give the Muskies in Illinois. Denis Ledgerwood a call at 636-527-5366 to have a Muskies steak for you.

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Chapter Challenge

Border War

March 7th, 2009

Contact Denis Ledgerwood
Denis@missourimuskie.org
646-346-4288

Mayhem Makeover: Opponents And Proponents Abound May 2

By Todd Hardin

Soon the weather will start to warm, and not soon enough for many of us. The first weekend of May will arrive and with it the annual Muskie Mayhem. Held that glorious first weekend in May-Saturday, May 2nd-Mayhem will be a little different after the recent makeover voted on during December's planning meeting.

No make-up will be needed for this makeover, something you'll be glad to hear. This makeover is in response to years of Muskie Mayhem outings, and some of the criticism of Mayhem and similar outings such as Guide for a Day. The Mayhem changes will address several concerns, but not everyone is pleased.

"We cannot make everyone happy, nor should we try," stated several Board members. Below are the changes, and the reasoning behind them as voiced at the outings and December planning meeting.

Mayhem will launch at 8:00 a.m., an hour later than in past years. This will allow everyone an extra hour to eat or drive or whatever before launching from State Park Marina.

A picnic meal at noon will replace the traditional dinner. This is the major change.

The noontime meal, scheduled from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., will be held lakeside at the State Park Pavilion at P2. This is the launch ramp used last year during high water. We will beach and anchor in the cove. The Pavilion will provide a roof, some seating, and barbeque pit for grilling hamburgers, hotdog's and bratwurst. The cost of lunch, with all the fixings of a true picnic, will be half that of the dinners of past years. Lunch will be \$5.00 per new member and guests. Guides will still eat for free, but several are grumbling about the menu changes, asking why not cook the traditional steaks at noon. A latrine and fresh-water pump are also located at the site. During this midday time frame we will hold our meeting, possibly a raffle or two, and put on a short lure demonstration. "This arrangement saves us time and money," claim the advocates of these changes. "We will no longer be meeting late into the evening after a daylong outing. Many who stayed over Friday and Saturday nights, need not spend the money for a second night, unless they wish. Most of the guides can now drive home Saturday evening and arrive at a decent hour.

We can drive home earlier, and be safer since guides and anglers will not be so tired."

After the noon meal, fishing will resume until 5:30 p.m., when we will gather at State Park Marina for a very brief award ceremony. These changes are also intended to make the weekend more family-friendly for those who wish to explore the area and take part in the Rendezvous events which are held the same weekend as Mayhem.

"Following these changes for this year, the membership and Board will take another look at how Mayhem should be organized.

Guides are needed.

Contact

ToddH@missourimuskie.org to sign up as a guide, new member, or guest.

Border War!!!!

**Don't forget
MARCH 7th.**

Border War!!!!

**Don't forget
MARCH 7th.**

The Sport Shows

By Earle Hammond

Fred Wehrli
 Dick McPike
 John Blankenship
 Steve Worstell
 Max Steward
 Jackie Evans
 Gregg Grills
 Loren Gruber
 Phil White
 Robert Visek
 Denis Visek
 Frank Visek
 Earle Hammond
 Jim Wilson

All the above people all did a heck of a job at the **Kansas City Sport Show**. We had a very great number of people who were interested in Muskie Mayhem and Guide For A Day. We gave away 150 brochures on our activities with the main focus on the MM and GFAD. The show itself was not big but the people interested in Muskie fishing and doing that close by seemed to be picking up. It is by far cheaper to fish in any muskie lake in Missouri than going to Minnesota or Canada, even though both are excellent places but gas prices will probably go sky high again this summer, look at what they are doing to us now... just preparing us to open our wallets and feed the

rich gas companies. I did notice at the KC show that several of the Canada Resorts were offering trips at \$400+ a week and that included boat, motor and gas, it is my opinion that they were hurting last year and I would expect it to get worse this year. If it were me going up there and you had a place you stayed at for a while you might consider seeing if they offered a lower rate or any other amenities. It sure doesn't hurt to ask.

Paul Scharringhausen did an exceptional job in setting up the schedule for the Sport Show and Seminar.

St. Louis Sport Show

Thanks **Jeff Thompson** for doing such an excellent job of setting up the St. Louis Sport Show.

A special thanks to everyone who worked the booth and I hope I am not forgetting anyone.

Jeff Thompson
Bob Blitt
Denis Ledgerwood
Wayne Humphrey
Doug Hutchison
Don Rassmussen
Nora Rassmussen
Dan Diemet
Mark King

Border War!!!!

Don't forget your entries for the BORDER WAR!

Challenge between the Pomme de Terre Chapter and Shawnee Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

The date is MARCH 7th, 2009.

Don't forget MARCH 7th.

Get your entry to me by 2/23 and be entered in a drawing for a free night at Clearlight Inn.

Right now I have 6 entries and 3 are local to Pomme so you have a good chance of winning.

Any questions call me 636 - 346 - 4288 or e-mail denis@missourimuskies.org

Don't forget MARCH 7th.

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The Critter Cabin Report

By Jay Richman



Hello to all! Here it is, second week of January, and the two things you should be thinking about (at least in my mind) is the start of the Daytona 500 coming closer and closer, and secondly, getting my reels all cleaned up and ready to go in a four month span. Being pretty busy working on other people's reels leaves me with doing only two or three per month of my own. By opening day I'll still have a few to go over, and there will always be those few that won't get the total going-over, but just a quick lube job. That thought got me thinking about a topic for my first article this off-season. And that is, how to do some maintenance on your own reels without spending a lot of time and also without tearing the whole reel apart. I'll be dealing with baitcast reels only here.

Start with the handle. The paddles are either press-fit on like an ABU or Daiwa, or fastened with a nut onto the post like almost all Shimano's. On a Shimano handle there's a small round cap at the center of the paddle. Pop it off with a small screwdriver or a very small awl. Inside you'll see a round nut with slots for a flat screwdriver to fit. Now, this is important: On a regular Calcutta, unscrew the nut in the normal fashion, which is counter-clockwise. On a Calcutta TE (remember that means total excrement) the threads are reversed, so you'll

be turning the nut clockwise to back it off. Take off the paddle, along with a brass washer and wipe down the stem and the inside of the paddle. After cleaning both stems and paddles, apply reel grease to the inside of the paddle from the base end. Spin the paddle a bit as you slip it on the stem, then put in the washer and nut, then the cap. On the models that have the pressed-on paddles, all you can do is run some alcohol down the stem and follow with hot water. I also use a mild solvent, but be careful with what you use since the paddles can be melted from a strong solvent. Do whatever you have to do to dry the handle out before you apply any oil. A hair dryer works good if you don't want to wait an hour or two. I use oil for the simple fact that grease won't run down the stem tip like oil does. One drop on the stem's outside tip is good. Spin the paddle around until you see the oil disappear down the stem. Axle bearings are the next subject. All good reels these days have bearings, not bushings, on the axle somewhere. On most ABU's, inside the spool is where you'll find the only two bearings, while on the Records there are bearings also on the ends of the axle beneath the caps, much like the ABU reels from the mid-80's

80's and older. When I mention "cap," or "caps" on any reel, I'm referring to the cast control adjustment cap. One to two drops of oil will be fine on each bearing. On all ABU's, there's a retainer holding the bearing in place. Remove this part if you'd like to give the bearing a good cleaning. When working on the bearings beneath the caps, put a small dab of grease on the threads of the cap. This will not only help keep water out of the cap, it will also keep the small "O" ring, which holds the cap in place, from cracking. On regular Calcutta's, the two bearings are beneath the cap on the crank side, and on the inside of the palm side cover plate. The one inside the cap won't have a retainer holding it in, but it does have a very thin spacer beneath the bearing, so be aware of it. On the Total Excrements, TE models, one bearing is inside the cap with a retainer, and the crank side bearing is held, also via retainer, inside the part called the brake case. To get here, loosen the only thumb screw on

Continued on Page 5

the TE and flip open the palm side cover. The brake case is held onto the frame by only two Phillips screws. Remove the screws and take out the whole brake case. You'll see where the axle is held in place by the bearing. There's a small fiber washer beneath this bearing. There's a small hole on the backside of the case, so first take out the retainer then pop a toothpick or another small object through the hole to remove the bearing and washer. One thing I should mention: On the bearings where you can actually see the ball bearings, pack them with reel grease, just like you would with your boat trailer. Both regular and TE Calcutta's have used these type bearings. On the St. Croix and Daiwa's, the bearings are at the same places as the Calcutta's, only the palm side bearing is easier to get to. Simply unscrew the left side cover and the whole plate comes off. The bearing takes some work to remove from the reel, so I won't get into that part of it. The crank side bearing is accessed by taking out the spool, which of course is easy once the palm side cover is off.

The bearing is right there where the axle goes through into the pinion gear. On Maina's and Pflueger's the palm side bearings are between the spool pinion gear and the spool itself. Loosen the two thumbscrews and remove the whole left side, along with the spool. The palm side bearing is inside the spool pinion gear, which is held onto the spool by a small retainer. Remove the retainer and the gear, then the bearing will easily pull off. Another bearing is on the spool, on the crank side. The third bearing is beneath the cap, held on by a retainer.

I'll stop here on the maintenance gig and talk about the brakes, as long as you are into the spool removal stage. Most newer reels have a 6-pin centrifugal brake system, while older or cheaper reels have only a two-brake system. The two-brake reels only allow you three choices: keep both brakes in the reel; remove one brake, or; remove both brakes. Through my experiences, the latter two choices really do no good for the caster. I have not noticed one bit of change on my casts, EXCEPT when my cast control adjustment has been snugged up a bit. On the six-brake reels, two brakes "on" seems to be the most commonly used choice,

though I believe this is because most people won't tinker with their brakes, and this is how most reels come out of the box. Everybody needs to know how many brakes are on or off on the reels they use. If your reel has four brakes on and you don't realize it, you're missing out on some good casting distances. If your reel has zero brakes on and you don't realize it, and you deem your reel a piece of "junk" because every other cast is a backlash, you'll be buying a new reel, one of those computer chip deals! Don't waste your money on one of those reels, just tune up the reel you have and set your brakes correctly. Your manual will show you, better than I can, how to adjust the brakes on your reel. Just be real sure you have the brakes the same opposing each other. Your manual will tell you what that means. One thing I'll say about the brakes: On every baitcaster I own, I use minimal brake drag, meaning zero brakes on, and minimal (actually none) cast control pressure. Let that spool be able to move side to side a bit, and your axle pressure will be zero. Your casts will be noticeably longer than you've ever imagined. It just takes a lot of practice with your thumb, and how much pressure you need to apply to the spool. It sure makes for a nice, easy day of casting and retrieving. Easier on your reel to. Next month I'll tackle cog wheels and line guides, and comment on some other things. See ya next month, Jay

Jay Richman
Crittter Cabin Rod and Reel Service
715-547-6338
godalejr@peoplepc.com

Got Stuff

By Wayne Humphrey

I have been on a clean up binge recently and was surprised by the amount of old fishing stuff that I have around. Not the old collectable stuff, just old stuff. A lot of it is rods, reels, combos, and assorted tackle. Most is closed face spinning reels; some of it is less expensive bait casting equipment that I have abandoned. To be functional, most would need to be cleaned up and new line put on.

I imagine that almost all of you have a similar assortment of stuff around the house. Stuff you probably won't use but you figure there is something better to do with than to just throw it away.

My question is, "What do we do with it?"

Are any of you aware of any organizations that teach kids to fish that would appreciate a donation of this type of equipment if it is returned to working order? Any Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops? Any inner city organizations? Any children's camps? Any other place?

If we can figure out what to do with all of this equipment, I think it would be a good project for the chapter to clean this equipment and make the donation. It falls right into the goals of the organization to get and keep youth involved in the sport of fishing.

Got ideas? Send them to me and I will coordinate them and see what we can do.

Wayne Humphrey

314-878-7732

Wayne@missourimuskies.org



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 11-15 St. Louis Sport Show~~

February 21 Seminar & Meeting Olathe, KS. Bass Pro 2 PM

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 Gary At 417-852-7126

FROM

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TO: