



# Missouri Muskies Newsletter

## Pomme de Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc.

### Donner's Discourse

By George Donner, President



May 18<sup>th</sup> was Musky Mayhem. Joe Magerl and Rich Bullock are the two new club members that were introduced to the lake. Paul Blakenship and Paul Olejnicak were the guides respectively. Fishing was from 8AM to 4PM. Only one fish was seen all day. Steve Worstell was my partner, at 3:45 PM I hooked up with a monster that we estimated to be in the low 40's and very fat. We were unable to net the fish as he got tangled in the trolling motor and threw the hook before Steve could get the net ready. So it is just another fish story.

There is a modification to the MI web site - when you go to the "login" page, you'll see "forgot password" below the password entry.

If you select that, you'll go to a screen that will send you a new password by entering the appropriate information.

Next club outing is June 8<sup>th</sup> at Henry Sever & Hazel Creek on the 9<sup>th</sup>. More information is available below. Plan to attend, this is a enjoyable outing and a chance to fish some new waters. Let me know if you are attending at 816-678-1623 or at [George@missourimuskies.org](mailto:George@missourimuskies.org)

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### What Muskies Really Eat

Muskies and other game fish species have co-existed for centuries, and will continue to do so. This fact is not possible if these muskies were decimating the populations as some imply. A steady balance between predators and prey fish is essential to the overall health of any aquatic ecosystem. Conflicts arise during the times when forage is scarce for all species. Lakes must provide adequate forage to feed all of the cohabitating predator species such as a bass, a walleye, and a muskie in that water. For example, in lakes where an abundance of shad is the primary food for fish-eating species; ordinarily reliable populations are prone to sharp declines every three or four years. Like many forage species, the shad populations are cyclic, causing widespread food shortages when declines occur. The shortages cause competition and force fish to use food sources beside preferred prey. Winter kills, poor spawns, and diseases do complicate conditions.

Muskellunge are introduced into many ecosystems to control unwanted rough and trash fish considered non-game species. In New Mexico, tiger muskies were recently stocked to control the sucker and goldfish numbers at Bluewater Lake. A balanced population is one common reason for the stocking of muskies. In some locales these predators are proven effective in reducing numbers of stunted bass in waters where the poor forage and too many small bass prevent the bass from achieving trophy proportions. A lack of suitable forage allows muskie to thin out these stunted populations, resulting in a vastly improved bass fishery. Muskies effects are most often positive,



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restoring the balance in the food pyramid, which allows for larger fish in all of the cohabitating species.

Predator fish can, and do, successfully inhabit the same waters. There is room in our lakes for all species to exist and thrive, and there is room on our fishing waters for the anglers of each and every species.

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### How to Talk “Muskie” - A Primer for Those New to the Sport

By Wayne Humphrey

Just the other night I was talking to a gentleman who was interested in joining Muskies, Inc. and wanted to learn more about the organization and the activities that went on. He had done some Muskie fishing up north, but he was now ready to become more serious about the sport.

The conversation took me back to a time not long ago when I was new to the sport and trying to learn what to do and how to do it. I found that it even had a language of its own that I had to learn. Terms I had used bass fishing didn't fit this new sport and the terms used in this sport sure didn't fit anything else I had done. For the benefit of others that are new to the sport or who have loved ones involved in it, here is a primer on how to speak “Muskie”, the definition of terms and what they really mean.

**Muskie** - 1. A large, fresh water fish, top of the food chain. Known to grow to 70 pounds. Rumored to have grown to 100 pounds. Elusive, legendary for requiring 10,000 casts before catching one. 2. A reason to invest big dollars in rods, reels, lures and related equipment. (May be related to the “He whose has the most toys.... phenomenon.) 3. The smelliest, slimiest, nastiest thing that you will ever hold in your hands while at the same time smiling at a camera.

**Follow** - 1. When a Muskie will chase a lure through the water and often back to the side of the boat. The fish is interested and/or curious but not provoked into a strike. 2. A word used to describe the results that you have had fishing. Ex: “We didn't catch any fish but we did have two follows.” 3. Any swirl, shadow, ripple or other indication, within 10 feet of a lure, that gives encouragement to the fisherman.

**Water Release** - 1. When a hooked Muskie is brought along side the boat and released without ever removing the fish from the water. This is done as not to stress the fish. 2. Whenever a fish is hooked but lost before you can get it to the boat. Maybe modified by the word “early”. Ex: “I had one on but had an early water release.” 3. Since you do not have to see the fish to have a water release, the term can be used to explain a multitude of events such as losing a fish immediately after he hits, lures bumping a stump on bottom and momentarily getting hung up, or the fisherman pulling the lure away from a following fish when he gets excited.

**“Jerk” Bait** - 1. Type of artificial lure used to simulate an injured or dying bait fish. Usually 6-12 inches long with multiple treble hooks. May weigh several ounces. 2. The instructions you were given when you asked how to fish a lure this big. 3. How you feel after fishing one all day and not having any results.

**“Crank” Bait** - 1. Type of artificial lure used to simulate a bait fish. Usually 6-12 inches long with multiple treble hooks. May weigh several ounces. 2. The instructions you were given when you asked

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how to fish a lure this big. 3. Cranky, *adj*, How you feel after fishing one all day and not having any results.

**Canada** - 1. Country that borders the U.S.A. immediately to the north. 2. A place to dream of on cold winter nights. 3. A land with mythical clear water lakes where Muskies grow as big as your boat and are as plentiful as the crappie back home.

**Lake Manybigmuskies** - 1. That lake up north that you have always wanted to fish because you know you will catch the fish of a lifetime. 2. Located at least one full day's drive from any inhabited spot in North America and found at the end of 6 miles of bad dirt and gravel road.

**Reality Check** - 1. What you get when you get to Lake Manybigmuskies. 2. The result of some combination of the following factors: hot weather, cold fronts, strong winds, torrential rain, dead calm, bluebird skies, mosquitoes so large it only takes two to carry off a sunstruck robin, cabins with outdoor plumbing, all the fried food you could ever hope to eat. 3. A commonly heard phrase during a reality check is, "Gas is how much???"

**Lure Retriever** - 1. Any device intended to dislodge a lure that has been hung up on the bottom or in structure. May be on the end of a long pole or attached to a rope. 2. An item that will pay for itself by retrieving just one or two lures. 3. A role played by your boating partner when you become hung up. 4. The most valuable tool in the boat when you hang up the only lure that has produced fish that week.

**No** - 1. Used to express the negative of an alternative choice. 2. Commonly used to answer any of the following: "Catch any today?" "Have any follows?" "See any?" "Think it will be better tomorrow?" 3. A way to express optimism as when used to answer, "Do you want to give it up and go home?"

**Tackle Box** - 1. A large, portable, container in which lures are stored. 2. An item that appears to grow in size when loaded in a boat with several others of its kind. 3. An item of torture that allows lures to become tangled in a manner unimagined by the human mind.

**Muskie Fishing** - 1. A sport pursued by those that are not afraid of a challenge. 2. A reason to get out of the house and avoid those weekend chores. 3. One of the few things that will get you to leave the house on a cold, windy, rainy day when you couldn't do chores anyway. 4. A great way to meet new people and make new friends.



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### Upcoming Events

#### Northeast Missouri Muskie Outing

June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

If you want a unique muskie fishing opportunity come join the *Northeast MO Muskie Outing* sponsored by Pomme Chapter of Muskie, Inc. June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. The outing will start at Henry Sever Lake at Newark, MO on June 8<sup>th</sup>. (Henry Sever is located 1 mile north of Newark, MO on Rt. KK) Launch time will be at 7:00 A.M. Henry Sever is a 158 acre lake.

Outboard motors in excess of 10 horsepower must operate at slow, no wake speed. Muskie fishing success at Henry Sever has been improving the last couple of years.

Lunch will be provided by Pomme Chapter members for all participating in the outing. (Hot dogs, brats, chips and drinks).

*The Northeast Muskie Outing* will continue on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Hazel Creek Lake, about three miles north of Kirksville, MO, then 1.5 miles west on Buck Creek Road. (When Buck Creek swings to the right, continue straight to the lake.) The boat ramp on the north side will be used for the outing. Hazel Creek Lake is 530 acres and is owned and operated by the city of Kirksville, MO. Only electric motors are permitted. Hazel Creek Lake is noted for having many muskie over 40".

Lunch will again be provided by members of the Pomme Chapter of Muskie, Inc.

#### Distance, Lodging, Food Possibilities for June 7<sup>th</sup>:

- **Shelbina Best Value Inn** (Distance from Shelbina to Newark = 25 miles)  
711 North Highway 15  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
(573) 588-0020
- **Martha's Family Restaurant** (Shelbina) is open for evening meals and early morning breakfast. (opens @ 5:00 A.M.)
- **Little's Family Restaurant** (Shelbyville) is open for evening meals with an adjoining bar.
- **Bethel, MO** (Distance from Bethel to Newark = 12 miles)  
**Inn Harmony--** *Opened in 2006, the original colony hotel now houses guest's in a historic setting, modestly furnished with a complete kitchen and private bath, with a bit of history in each guest room. The proud owners are Melvin and Wendy Brumbaugh. To make reservations please call (660)278-4221.*
- **Smokin J's Steakhouse** (Bethel, MO) *Smokin J's is a new steakhouse and bar in Bethel, Missouri. It is a small family owned business that will serve barbeque specials along with a full menu of food and drinks.*
- **Ozark Lodge & Steakhouse-Newark, MO and Solid Rock Café**  
(Distance from Lodge to Henry Sever = 6 miles) Lodge Rooms by reservation at (660) 284-6333. Prices start at \$47.50 per night. (No TV)
- **Primitive Camping is available at Henry Sever.**

#### Lodging Possibilities for June 8<sup>th</sup>: (Kirksville, MO)

- **Days Inn** (phone: 660-665-8244)
- **Super 8** (phone: 660-665-8826) Parking for boats. Bring a long extension cord and power strip.

**Don't forget, July 13<sup>th</sup> is the clubs kid's day. We will have a kid's fishing day starting at 9 AM at the State Park Marina. Lunch will be provided. Bring your kids, grand kids, neighbor kids!!**



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### Fall Tournament Updates

Changes to fall tournament pay out, this year the minimum pay out for the tournament is \$1,275, which is equivalent to 30 teams participating. This pay out is regardless of the amount of entries received. The pay out increases progressively above 30 teams. In the past actual tournament pay out was based on the number of entries which has been less than 30 teams. This year the pay out schedule minimums are:

Friday		Sat/Sun	
1st Place	\$225.00	1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$125.00	2nd Place	\$225.00
3rd Place	\$75.00	3rd Place	\$125.00

The tournament is October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Boat numbers determine starting sequence, numbers are assigned based on receipt of completed tournament entry form. First entry gets starting position number 1 and so on.**

T Shirt Sales: We will be selling T-Shirts this year Friday and Saturday mornings. There will be no need to pre-order the T Shirts.

**See next page for entry form.**



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### Tournament Entry Form

UNSIGNED ENTRY FORMS WILL BE RETURNED FOR SIGNATURE

LATE FEE, IF ENTRY FEE POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2013 - \$10 PER TEAM

PLEASE PRINT		Team Fees	Amount Enclosed
Boater's Name		Friday \$60	
Mailing Address		Saturday/Sunday \$130*	
City, State, Zip		<b>Big Fish Pot</b> Optional	
Phone		\$10 Friday	
Email		\$10 Saturday	
<b>Boater's Signature</b>		\$10 Sunday	
Partner's Name		Extra Meals @ \$17 ea	
Mailing Address		Late Fee	
City, State, Zip			
Phone			
Email			
<b>Partner's Signature</b>		Total Enclosed	

Send entry form & check or money order payable to:

Pomme De Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc. C/O Wayne Humphrey, 768 Country Manor Lane, St Louis Mo 63141

### Entry Fees

Friday – October 4th.....\$60 per team

Saturday/Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.....\$130\* per team

\*Includes Saturday Night Banquet at Wheatland Senior Center

Optional Big Fish Pot (100% Payback)..... \$10 Team/Day (See Rules)

**Late Fees Apply If Postmarked after September 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 or Entry at Dock**

**Tournament Contacts:** George Donner 816-678-1623 or Wayne Humphrey 314-440-2173

**Tournament Rules Mailed with Entry Confirmation**

Also Available Online at [www.missourimuskie.org](http://www.missourimuskie.org)

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<b><u>2013 Pomme De Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc.</u></b>			
<b><u>Calendar of Club Events</u></b>			
		Chairman	Contact No.
<b>June</b>			
8-9	Northern Missouri Musky Trail Outing & Meeting - Henry Sever & Hazel Creek	George Donner Tim Dunaway	816-678-1623 573-588-4082
<b>July</b>			
13	Kids Day - State Park Marina - Lunch & Meeting follow	Dan Diemert Steve Worstell	314-752-9971 816-520-2371
27	Pomme de Tour - Pomme Arm - from The Harbor Marina @ 8 AM	Earle Hammond	816-225-3519
18-24	Lake St Clair outing	Denis Ledgerwood	636-346-4288
<b>August</b>			
17	Pomme de Tour - Lindley Arm - From The Harbor Marina @ 8 AM	Earle Hammond	816-225-3519
<b>September</b>			
21	Guide For A Day - Meeting - Meal	Steve Worstell	816-520-2371
18-20	Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge @ Lake Vermillion	Fred Wehrli	785-584-6393
<b>October</b>			
4	Friday Fall Muskie Tournament	George Donner Scott Schlick	816-678-1623
5-6	Saturday/Sunday Fall Muskie Tournament	George Donner Scott Schlick	816-678-1624
11-19	Lac Seul Trip	Doug Hutchinson	314-949-0854
26-27	CPR Mail-in Tournament	Wayne Humphrey	314-440-2173
<b>November</b>			
9	Pick 3 Outing - Dinner & Nominations Meeting Follow	George Donner	816-678-1623
<b>December</b>			
7	Annual & Planning Meeting - Starts at 10 AM - Lunch Served	George Donner	816-678-1623





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### Event Descriptions

Northern Musky Trail – Members will meet at Henry Sever Lake to fish Saturday and then move to Hazel Creek Lake to fish Sunday. The lakes are within a few hours of each other and it is a chance for us to use those stocked lakes as well as Pomme.

Kids' Day - Fishing event provides a day to bring kids and family to the state park marina to fish for crappie (and whatever else bites). Fish are measured and weighed and records are kept. This is for kids from 5 to 16.

Pomme de tours ( Pomme and Lindley arms of the lake) are held for members to educate them on fishing spots, lures, techniques to catch Muskies. Using a pontoon boat, the tours are led by our professional guides. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other members and to learn where and how to fish the lake. This is free for members but expenses for the boat and gas are shared. Bring your lunch or buy lunch while at a stop on the tour.

Guide for a Day (GFAD) – This is a significant fundraiser for our club. Existing members guide potential members (from sports shows or other ads). The goal is to provide a good example of what fishing for muskies is all about and have a great steak dinner. This has led to many new members in the past.

Fall Tournament – This is the best fishing time of the year and this is our clubs' premier event. Cash prizes are awarded. There are two tournaments in the same weekend – Friday tournament and Saturday/Sunday tournament. A big meal and program are held Saturday night. Drawings for prizes are held as well.

CPR (Catch, Photograph, Release) tournament – This tournament is held at the end of October to encourage fishing at ANY Missouri Lake or Kincaid Lake in southern Illinois. Cash prizes are awarded for the largest fish.

Pick Three Outing – Each member picks three lures to fish with. They can only use those lures for the day. Big Fish pot is voluntary. Braggin' rights apply for the first, most, largest etc.

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Steve Worstell is the newsletter editor for 2013. If you have any questions or comments, please let him know – [sworstel1@yahoo.com](mailto:sworstel1@yahoo.com) or 816-520-2371. If you have articles or want to participate in creating the newsletter, the more hands, the lighter the load. Please check out our website at [MissouriMuskies.org](http://MissouriMuskies.org) for more information about our chapter.

