



The Marker Buoy¹

March 2024

This Month's Meeting: This month's club meeting will be held on Wednesday March 13th at 6:30 pm at the Hoffman House. Our March speaker is Brad Ferwerda from Anglers Edge in Loves Park. Brad is a life long angler and his father was a member of the Rock Valley Anglers for many years. Brad currently fills multiple roles at Anglers Edge including boat sales and bait/tackle sales. He enjoys interacting with and educating local anglers. He is excited to share his extensive knowledge of fishing with our club. He will be talking about multi-species fishing in our local waters, discussing what Anglers Edge has to offer, and fielding your fishing related questions.

Important Announcement: Our April meeting will be The Rockford All City Muskie Night with Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc.. **Our club will be raffling off a cooler filled with bottles of liquor at the All City Muskie Night. We are asking club members to please donate an unopened bottle of liquor for the raffle at this month's meeting.**

Important Announcement About Executive Board: Please welcome our new vice president: Theresa Wesseln and please welcome back Chris Olson as our outings coordinator

Important Info: Membership Dues are 45 dollars this year and are due this month. Please bring 45 dollars cash or a check to the March meeting. Dues can also be mailed to Stu Sondergarth or Bruce Youngberg.



The Marker Buoy₂

Important Change: Starting in January our club meeting will be in the former restaurant area of the Hoffman House. This room can be entered through the bar. Please note it was Hoffman House's decision to make this change.

Special Raffle Prize for March: The special raffle prize will be a Piscifun Carbon X 2000 spinning reel with 10 stainless steel bearings and a 6.2:1 gear ratio. Tickets are \$5 for 1, \$10 for 3 and \$20 for 7.



2023 Contest Winners: Please come to the March meeting as awards will be handed out at this meeting.



The Marker Buoy³

Club hats: We will be selling Rock Valley Anglers baseball hats at club meetings. Adult size hats will be \$15 and youth hats will be \$5. The number of youth hats is limited. Please contact Gary Votsberg for information.

Mountain of Tackle Raffle: The club had another successful fundraiser with the Mountain of Tackle raffle and a rod and reel raffle at the Fishing Garage Sale and the Fishing Show again this year. Thanks to all club members who donated to the Mountain of Tackle raffle and thanks to all members who helped sell raffle tickets at both events.



Mountain of Tackle Raffle Winner Pete Gedrimas



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Jack Phillips Winner of the Rod and Reel Raffle



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Upcoming Meetings:

April: Rockford All City Muskie Night

May: Club members panel discussion on Green Bay Walleye

June: Pierce Lake Cookout

Tentative Outing Schedule 2024:

May: BlueGill Outing and Contest on Lake Waubesa

June: Pierce Lake Cookout and Fishing Outing

July: Walworth County Bass Contest

August: Green Bay Walleye Fishing Outing



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February Fish of the Month: The February Fish of the Month is a 16 inch largemouth caught on Williams Lake in Wisconsin by Scott Campbell on February 20, 2024.





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Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings As of 3/6/2024

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length (in inches)</u>
Smallmouth	No entry	
Largemouth	Chad Riesen Scott Campbell	16
Northern	Tom Wesseln	26.25
Muskie	No entry	
Catfish	No entry	
Walleye	Chad Riesen	24.5



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Angler of the Year: As of 3/6/2024

	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chad Riesen	16		24.5		10.5	51
Scott Campbell	16					16
Chris Olson					12.75	12.75

Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 3/6/2024

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chris Olson			12.75	12.75
Chad Riesen			10.5	10



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Members Only Fishing Contest Rules

General: Only fish caught from waters accessible by the general public are eligible.

Contest #1: Fish of the Month

All entries caught during a calendar month will be evaluated by the Board of Directors to determine a winner. Entries must be received by the 1st Wednesday of the month following the catch to be considered. A \$15 gift card will be awarded to members catching the winning fish. Each member can win only once per year. Species considered—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.

Contest #2: Fisherman of the Year

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The lengths of each member's best individual fish of 5 different species will be added to determine a total length. A \$100 gift card will be awarded to the longest total



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length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to the second longest total length. A \$25 gift card will be awarded to the third longest total length. In the event of ties, the winning will be split evenly. Contest Species—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Bluegill, Crappie.

Contest #3: Best of Breed

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. A \$20 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. In the event of ties, a \$10 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. Each member can win only once per species. Contest Species— Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.

Contest #4: Pan fisherman of the Year

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The aggregate lengths of each member's best individual fish

of the 3 different species of panfish will be added to determine a total length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to



The Marker Buoy¹¹

the member with the longest total length. In the event of ties, the winnings will be split evenly. Contest Species—Bluegill, Crappie, and Yellow Perch.

Submitting fish for the contests is very easy. Just copy/paste the email template below. Paste the template into an email, complete the questions, attach picture(s) of the catch, and send to: rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com

Copy/Paste Email Template for Electronic Fish Entries:

- 1) Name:
- 2) Date Caught:
- 3) Species:
- 4) Length (inches to 1/4 inch):
- 5) Lake/River:
- 6) State:
- 7) Picture: [Yes or No]
- 8) Date Entered:
- 9) Witness:

*Remember to attach picture(s) to email prior to sending.

*Send to rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com



The Marker Buoy¹²

Changes for Illinois Sportsmen in 2024

Hunters, fishermen, and trappers can now obtain a three-year license under a new law for which I served as a chief co-sponsor. Under House Bill 3677/P.A. 103-0456, for residents aged 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a three-year fishing/hunting license. For resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a three-year fishing license. Veterans must provide to the Department, per administrative rule, verification of their service. The Department shall establish what constitutes suitable verification of service for the purpose of issuing three-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

Additionally, under House Bill 2317/P.A. 103-0528, for sport fishing devices or spearing devices, any resident of Illinois who is age 26 or older who has not purchased a resident fishing license in the past 10 years is now eligible to receive a one-time annual resident fishing license for a fee of \$5. The law also provides that any nonresident who has not purchased a nonresident fishing license in the past 10 years shall be eligible to receive a one-time annual sport fishing license for a fee of \$10.



The Marker Buoy¹³

RVA Board Members:

**President: Joe Caruana phone: 815-985-9388 and email:
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**Vice President: Theresa Wesseln phone: 815-708-4355 and email:
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**Secretary: Stu Sondgeroth: phone: 815-233-0964 and email:
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**Treasurer: Bruce Youngberg: phone: 815-871-8142 and email:
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**Raffle/Mountain of Tackle: Ron Lund: phone: 815-222-0758 and
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**Outing Coordinator: Chris Olson: phone: 608-290-7748 and email:
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**Web Master/Tech: Gary Vosberg phone: 815-262-2239 and email:
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