



The Marker Buoy¹

January 2025

This Month's Meeting: Our monthly meeting will be held Wednesday January 8th at 6:30 pm at the Hoffman House. The speaker for the January meeting is going to be club member Chris Olson who will be speaking on ice fishing in southern Wisconsin lakes.

Fishing Contest: The 2024 Rock Valley Anglers members only fishing contest has now ended. The results are outlined later in this month's newsletter.

Rockford Fishing Show: This year's show is scheduled for 1/31/25 through 2/2/25 at the Indoor Sports Center. The Rock Valley Anglers will have a booth again this year to promote the club and sell raffle tickets. There will be a sign up sheet at this month's meeting for club members to volunteer to man the booth.

Chicagoland Fishing Show: This year's show will be 1/23/25-1/26/25 at the Schaumburg Convention Center.



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Fishing Garage Sale

The “Fishing Garage Sale” is scheduled for March 16th, 2025 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm at the Hoffman House.

As a “fundraiser” for the Rock Valley Anglers this year again we are asking for donations of any “good fishing equipment” from our club members that we can sell at the “Fishing Garage Sale” to supplement our club treasury.

We have reserved three tables at the sale. All money minus expenses we collect goes to our treasury.

The club will also, as in the past, have a table set up at the entrance selling our raffle tickets and the “Mountain of Tackle” prize tickets.

Please bring your donated items to the next few meetings of the Rock Valley Anglers January 8th or February 12th where we can collect them. Anything big we can pick up.

Any questions on the donations? Please call Gary Vosberg at 815 262 2239. Or John Wendell at 815 208 5556



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Club Raffle: As a major fundraiser for our monthly speakers the Rock Valley Anglers will hold a raffle at our March 12th monthly meeting. Each club member will be given 6 books of raffle tickets containing 6 tickets each. All members are asked to sell all these tickets if possible. Members are encouraged to sell more tickets if possible. Ticket prices are 1 dollar each **or** 5 dollars for 6 tickets **or** 15 dollars for 18. First prize is \$500, second prize is \$250, and third prize is \$100.



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December Fish of the Month: A 15.5 inch catfish caught by Theresa Wesseln 12/28/24 on the Rock River in Illinois.





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Recent Member Catches



Greg Sterwald Caught an 11.75 crappie on 12-8-2024 in the Madison Chain.



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Recent Member Catches



Jason Thompson recently caught a 24 inch and 7.75 pound largemouth bass in Rodman Reservoir.



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Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings As of 1/1/2025

<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length (in inches)</u>
Smallmouth	Tom Wesseln	22
Largemouth	Chris Olson	19.5
Northern	Dave Matranga	37.75
Muskie	Frank Sondgeroth	52.5
Catfish	Dave Matranga	31.5
Walleye	Chris Olson	29.5



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Angler of the Year: As of 1/1/2025

	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chris Olson	19.5	20	29.5	10.75	13.75	93.5
Greg Sterwald	19	21	27.75	9.75	11.75	89.25
John Rasmussen	19	20	26	9.5	12.25	86.75
Chad Riesen	17	17	28.75	10	13	85.75
Tom Wesseln	17.75	22	23.5	10.25	12	85.5
Kerry Schaible	19.25	17.75	23.5	10.5	14.5	85.5
John Rasmussen	19	19	23.5	9.5	12.25	83.25
Steve Hohlfelder		20	27		13	60
Bruce Youngberg	18	18		8.5	11	55.5
John Rasmussen		19		9.5	12.25	40.75
Dave Matranga		18	20			38



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Theresa Wesseln			22.5	9.0		31.5
Russ Maxwell			25.75			25.75
Scott Campbell	16			9.5		25.5
John Wendell	17					17
Gary Vosberg					15.75	15.75

Pan Fisherman of the Year: As of 1/1/2024

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Chris Olson	13.25	10.75	13.75	38
John Rasmussen	12	9.5	12.25	33.75
Chad Riesen	13	10	10.5	33.5
Kerry Schaible	7.75	10.5	14.5	32.75
Tom Wesseln	9.75	10.25	12	32
Greg Sterwald		9.75	11.75	21.5



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Bruce Youngberg		8.5	11	19.5
Gary Vosberg			15.75	15.75
Jon Wendell			15	15
Steve Hohfelder			13	13
Scott Campbell		9.5		9.5
Theresa Wesseln		9.5		9.5



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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



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different species will be added to determine a total length. A \$100 gift card will be awarded to the longest total 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



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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



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RVA Board Members:

**President: Joe Caruana phone: 815-985-9388 and email:
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**Treasurer: Bruce Youngberg: phone: 815-871-8142 and email:
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