

Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #3

by Dave Dawson

Well we're off and rolling. With 2 photo tip articles already delivered, this is the third in [hopefully] a long series of short articles intended to help our readers take great photos while muskie fishing regardless of the type of camera used or the conditions when the photos are taken.

This month's photo tip is the first in a multi-article series on natural lighting for outside photos. The main theme for all of these natural lighting photo tips is to **recognize where the sun is and use it to your advantage. Photos taken with the sun in the background can produce great silhouette shots** but are normally not a good choice when a crisp, detailed photo is desired.

Longtime MCW member Patrick Mickelsen managed to capture his muskie of a lifetime during our club's 2010 Canadian muskie outing at Young's Wilderness Camp on Lake of the Woods! His thick monster muskie measured 51 inches long! In the heat of the moment, when photos were being taken, the focus was on getting the trophy muskie back in the water. It wasn't until after the giant muskie was released that Patrick and his wife, Mary discovered that the photos of him with his MCW Canadian Champion muskie were very dark because the sun was sort of behind him. They discovered the hard way that do-overs are not possible after the muskie had been released. But despite the disappointing photos, they both have the entire experience ingrained in their memories!

When you find yourself in a similar situation, here are a couple things to consider: **Even if you are outside on a sunny day, consider enabling your camera's flash for at least some of the shots.** Familiarize yourself with how to enable and disable your camera's flash so you can quickly take a few shots with and without the flash. **Before taking any photos, look around and observe where the sun is.** While the muskie



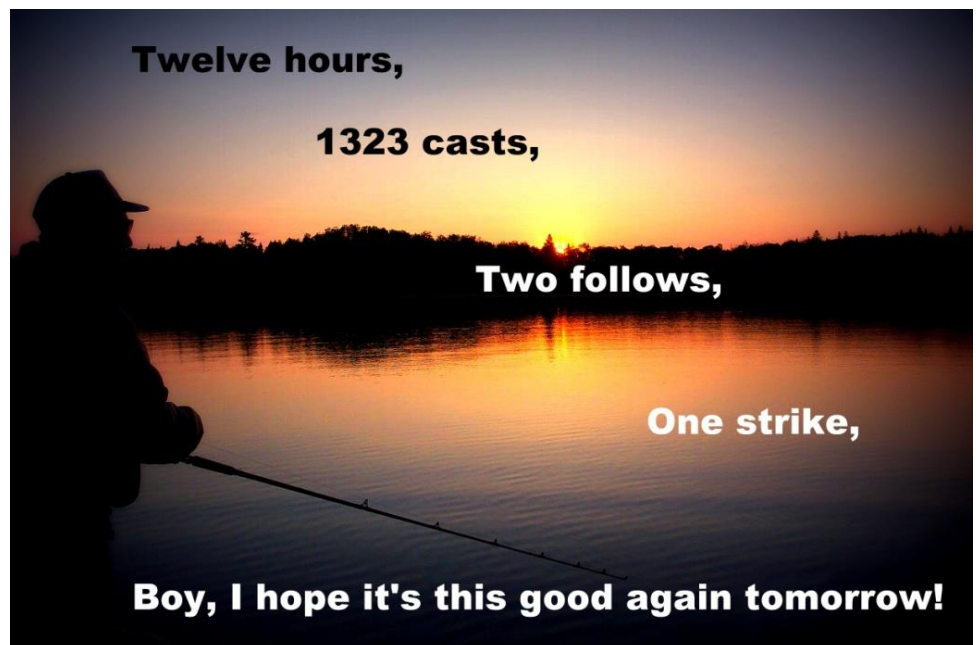
This disappointing photo of Patrick with his 51 inch MCW Canadian Champion muskie from the 2010 MCW Canadian club outing shows the importance of proper lighting when taking photos.

is still safely in the net, prepare for the photo shoot. Talk about the shots you want to capture. Use your trolling motor to position the sun so it's shining on the person about to be photo'd, but slightly off to either side.

Avoid having the subject face directly into the sun because that can produce a squinty-eyed angler and can often lead to photos where the camera person casts a shadow on the subject of the photo. Once everything is in position, have the lucky angler hoist the muskie out of the net and then immediately start snapping photos. As stated in photo tip #1 (Feb MCW Release), be sure to shoot lots of photos but don't prolong the release.

Every once in a while an opportunity for a silhouette shot presents itself, and that's when taking photos toward the sun can work in your favor. Outstanding silhouette shots can be captured at sunset by turning off your camera's flash and shooting directly into the sun. Play around with your camera at moments like this and you may capture your favorite shot of the year!

Good luck on the water in 2014 and remember to pay attention to where the sun is before you start snapping photos of your fishing partner. And most importantly, have fun!



Sometimes a photo opportunity lines up perfectly. Here the author reflects on a 12 hour day casting for muskies during a Canadian muskie adventure.