

Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #7

by Dave Dawson

Well it looks like a very early end to our open water muskie season, even in southern Wisconsin. On my way north for the gun deer season I observed icefishermen on Mud Lake just off the Belt Line in Madison. Yup, time to winterize the boat. <sigh>

I'm hoping this 1st year of photo tip articles has been worthwhile. They are 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. Photo tip #7 is the last tip of the year. I still have a good supply of photo tip topics ready for future articles but be sure to send me any ideas you may have. I look forward to sharing more photo tip articles in upcoming **MCW Release** newsletters.

This month's photo tip is more about preparation than shooting techniques but **could be the most important tip I've shared so far**. Not observing this tip could prevent you from having that keep-sake photo of the fattest muskie of your life!

This article's photo tip is to **know how to use the camera to be used to capture great shots of the lucky angler holding the muskie that was just caught**. We all focus plenty of attention to understand the when, where, why, how, etc of lure presentation to put the odds in our favor of catching a muskie. We prepare by sharpening hooks, re-tying leaders, reading articles, etc. But how many of us bother to spend some time with our fishing partner's camera BEFORE the moment of truth?

Surprising to some of us, taking a photo is more than just pushing the button on the camera. How does the camera turn on? How do you enable and disable the flash feature? Could the shot be better if taken with a certain mode enabled? Hopefully you're fairly comfortable with the answers to all of those questions for our own camera, but how many of us spend time with our partner's camera to know how it works?

The time to have that training session isn't after the muskie is in the net. Make the conscious effort to



This isn't a bad shot except for one thing... it's missing the 41" muskie the author caught moments earlier. Dave's partner wasn't able to figure out how to enable the camera's flash when it counted. (see more details below)

have a discussion about camera operation during the off-season, on your way to the lake, or as you're motoring to your first spot. Have your fishing partners actually operate your camera including snapping some random photos so when the time

comes, they're ready and understand how your camera works. If you don't learn how your partner's camera works and the opportunity presents itself, use your own camera and then share the photos later.

Ideally, you'll take a few shots with both cameras. I've seen times when one camera will take better shots than the other and if both cameras weren't used, you'd miss out on a great shot. I know of tournament anglers who released multiple muskies not realizing their camera wasn't working only to find out later that they're winning fish were disqualified because of the missing photos. Ouch!

You don't want to learn the hard way the camera you used was not working properly or you couldn't figure out how to use it. We all know that do-overs are not possible after the muskie had been released so make sure you're prepared for the shot.

Be sure to make use of all the tips from previous [and future] photo tip articles to capture your muskie moments in great photos.

I hope you're able to spend time with family and friends as the Christmas season draws near. Ask those you fish with to play with your new camera so you're ready. And most importantly, have fun!



The bewitching hour was upon them – swarming mosquitos on Lake of the Woods beginning just before dark! (You haven't lived until you've experienced that!) Dave stuck a 41" muskie right then. It wasn't quite dark, but a camera flash was definitely needed to get a good shot. Unfortunately Dave's fishing partner didn't know how to enable the flash on Dave's new camera so they missed the photo opp with Dave holding his fish. Once the fish was back in the water for the release, Dave took this disappointing shot showing only part of the muskie after enabling his camera's flash. Don't let this happen to you. Learn to work your fishing partner's camera!