



NEWSLETTER
June 30, 2026

Hello Pikemaster Members,

As many of you saw in the Club email, David Aaron Steiger Jr. passed away on June 21, 2026. He was a friend, a member, our Vice President and will be greatly missed by his many colleagues and fellow fishermen. Anyone who was able to meet and get to know Dave, will remember him for his kindness and soft spoken manner that made everyone feel at ease and important. We want to extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

Beginning in June we had our Laurel Kid's Fishing Day at Lion's Park on June 6th, 2026. We had 300 + kids and fed over 500 people. We had great weather and we want to thank all the volunteers and participants that made it a success. We had around 200 toys and 100+ rod and reels given out, so everyone seemed to have a good time. There were lots of happy kids catching more fish than expected. Thanks again to our sponsors, Altana Federal Credit Union for all the great Ice Cream, Billings Federal Credit Union, Franz Bakeries for all the buns, George Nilson, Hagen Printing, Klement Designs, Metra RV, Montana FWP, Pepsi, Shipton's Big R, Polar Ice Pryor Creek Bait Shop, Town and Country, Walmart and Wood Power Group. Without all the workers and the sponsors, we could not pull this off year after year. Thank you.

We were asked to help with an Eagle Mount Evening Out for their group of participants on June 16th. So we went to Riverfront Park, Lake Josephine, and helped about 15 of their members fish and have a good time.

We then had the Kiwanis Club Fishing Fun Day at Riverfront Park on June 20th. We helped with about 35 poles to let kids fish and then have lunch provided by Walleye Unlimited and we all had a great time and helped more kids fish.

On June 27, we started our 25th Annual Fishing Tournament at 6:00 AM with 24 boats on the water and people ready to face the elements and try and catch some fish. When we finished at 5:00 PM, there were more than 64 Northern Pike caught. This was amazing considering the wind, rain and lightning that chased people in for a few hours to get away from electrocution. (Everyone was safe, but there were some good lightning and thunder blasts early afternoon.)

We got everyone back in and had a great meal of pulled pork, potato salad, beans and cookies from the Rock Creek Marina Kitchen and everyone was full and happy. We then had our Raffle and had a great time with everyone trying to see what people would pick out and who would win what. It was a great time and we started to get rain at 8:00pm and everyone dispersed.

Unfortunately, Sunday started with extremely gray, windy skies and we tried to delay the start and ultimately decided to cancel fishing for the Tournament. It turned out to be a wise decision as there was lots of wind, rain and rough waters that would have made the day pretty dangerous and for safety sake, we stayed in. There were a couple of boats that ventured out over the morning, but most came back and were happy to sit and have a few sodas.



We had a 12:00pm meeting and awarded the prizes for 1 – 6 places and had plaques for the 1 – 4 places. The Biggest Pike went to the Brenton Buerkley Team with a 41" Pike. GREAT JOB.

We helped with the Colstrip Kids Fishing Day Event on Friday, June 26th at Castle Rock Lake —our third consecutive year supporting this outstanding community event. More than 100 kids pre-registered, and an estimated 160–175 participants enjoyed a perfect day with partly cloudy skies, a light breeze, and temperatures in the mid-60s. After a fun and productive morning of shore fishing, everyone gathered for a delicious lunch of street tacos, followed by prize giveaways and a special kids-only raffle.

This year, Montana PikeMasters donated 89 new spin-cast rod and reel combos to local youth, helping introduce more kids to the enjoyment of fishing. Anglers caught a variety of species throughout the day, including bluegill, bass, and Northern Pike. A special thank you goes to Joe Waller for representing Montana PikeMasters and helping make this year's event another great success.

Now looking into our next events, Eagle Mount has asked if we could help with Fishing Day at Wild Bill Lake on Tuesday, July 7th? I said we should be able to help and we will take the trailer there and bring our cooker. They will provide the meat and trimmings and we will provide about 30 poles and worms for their outing. We did this last year and it was a great day out.

They also have another night out fishing at Riverfront Park on July 14th from 5:30pm till 7:00pm. This will again be about 15 participants. So if can help with any of these outings, please let me know.

Our next events and meetings dates are as follows:

July – No Monthly Meeting August - No Meeting

July 7, 11:00 am till 1:30 pm, Eagle Mount at Wild Bill Lake 30 participants

July 14, 5:30 to 7:00 PM at Riverfront Park 15 rods.

August - No Meeting

September 3rd 7 pm Room 1001

October 1st 7 pm Room 1001

November 5th 7 pm Room 1001

December 3rd 7 pm Room 1001

Take care and keep being safe and keep on fishing.

Eugene Friedrich

Club President 406-690-4044 • friedeugene@gmail.com



Montana Pike Masters Billings Chapter, Inc Meeting Minutes June 4, 2026

Meeting called to order by Eugene Friedrich @ 7:03 PM

Officers: Eugene P. Friedrich, David Steiger Jr., and Brooke Young were present.

Minutes were Waived, motioned by Tom and seconded by Jim.

I. Treasurer Report:

Checking account - \$5791 as of 06/04/2026

Special projects - \$31,458 as of 06/04/2026

Scholarship - \$9,580 as of 06/04/2026

6 Month Savings Bonds \$ 80,000 mature in September

9 Month Savings Bonds \$ mature end of March

Accounts total: \$126,839

It was motioned by Tom, seconded by Paul and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

II. Old Business:

May brought us the FWP Kid's Fishing Event at Lake Elmo. We helped on May 11, 18, 19, and June 2, 2026. Overall, they gave out over 750 rods and reels and we helped set them up and helped the 4th and 5th graders from various schools fish at Lake Elmo. It was a good time and we all enjoyed helping Chrissy Webb and her FWP Colleagues.

The Pikemasters Club Fun Day was held at Tongue River State Park, on May 16th and we had a good time. There is a little report in the News Letter.

KID'S FISHING DAY

1. See the report on the screen to see what has been discussed and is in Action.

a. Gene also went over the list of items discussed at the committee meeting May 19th.

2. Need everyone to sign the Volunteer Sheet to be there on Saturday. We will be short a couple of people that were very instrumental last year. So please help if you can.

PIKEMASTER TOURNAMENT

1. We have received about 10 teams so far, but I have been called by several additional teams for information, so I think we are in line with last year's pace. We hope to have 30-40 teams this year.

2. Enduro gave us 25 bags again for hand out. We have some (about 15) left from last year.

3. There have been several of last year's teams talking about possibly measuring fish that were not swimming away and such, but these teams were very happy to hear we are working to have two weight boats on the water to help with the travel times and keep the fish healthier.



- a. A member recommended doing what other tournaments are doing which is taking a picture of the measured fish caught and releasing the fish to help with the issue of dead fish. Gene said he would call and ask around but he won't be doing it this year. We will look into it for next year.
4. Gene will order the Plaques, we will only have eight plaques, two for each top four finishers. We will still pay six places.
5. It was decided at the Committee to pay the travel money for the weigh boats and other volunteers.
6. Push members at the tournament
7. Hats for sale, not in the package
8. Put 2 spoons in each package
9. Put the paper with Pike and Walleye growth charts
10. Put membership form in package
11. Joe bought megaphone
12. Tournament meeting at 6:30pm, June 16th

I. New Business:

We need to report on what our membership is and see how it is growing. Brooke's has been keeping up with the membership rolls and she can report on where we are. 120 but 10 are expired.

Paul has made a motion that we allocate 15 minutes minimum at meetings for Fishing Talk. This would be required during a meeting. Jeff Ketelson seconded the motion. Discussion was done and Paul brought a handout to be an example of what we could do at each meeting. It was voted on and it passed.

Clayton brought up annual taxes. Gene and Joe will make sure that they get done.

The oldest fishing license contest is still going on and will go to midnight on June 30, 2026

Maybe we can do a September fun day closer to Billings.

Dave is not available this year for Colstrip Kids Fishing Day. We need to be sure we have help.

June 6th is D-Day. We will discuss honoring veterans.

Curtis mentioned that Laurel is thinking about purchasing floating ponds. If they do, do we want to help? Curtis will report back in September.

Our next Monthly Meeting is in September.



Here are the monthly meetings going forward.

June 6th, 2026 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Kids Fishing Day at Lions Park in Laurel

June 20th - Kiwanis Club kids fishing day.

June 26th - Colstrip Kids Fishing Day. We need to have poles, reels, and volunteers.

June 26, 27 and 28, 2026 - Pikemasters Fishing Tournament

July - No Meeting

August - No Meeting

September 3rd - 7 pm Room 1001

October 1st - 7 pm Room 1001

November 5th - 7 pm Room 1001

December 3rd - 7 pm Room 1001

II. Adjournment:

Adjourned the meeting @ 8:37pm