



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 8

August 2003

Frank Schneider Jr. International Muskie Tournament – 2003

The Twin Cities Chapter 36th Annual Frank Schneider Jr. International Muskie Tournament will take place September 5th, 6th, and 7th on lakes in the Walker, Cass Lake, Bemidji, and Longville areas.

The Grand Prize this year is a Ranger 618VS Fisherman, powered by a 125 hp Mercury with a Minn kota Maxxum trolling motor, equipped with Garmen electronics. The Grand Prize is awarded at the Sunday Banquet by draw from the names of every angler who registers a fish in the tournament.

Entry fees are \$60.00/adult and \$30.00/junior. Tickets go on sale August 1st at Thorne Brothers in Fridley, Joe's Sporting Goods in St Paul, Reed's Sporting Goods in Walker, and Jerry's One Stop in Longville. Tickets will also be available at the August Annual Picnic meeting. If you want to order tickets by mail, use the order form included in this issue. Make copies if you are purchasing more than one ticket. You can also order tickets online at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.com.

Two Friday night feeds have been scheduled, one at Canal House Restaurant at Stony Point and the other at Fireside Inn, on Highway 200 on Leech Lake, for those who want to join fellow fishermen for an evening meal. Cost for the feed is \$12.00/person in advance. The Sunday Banquet and Awards Ceremony will be held at Walker City Park.

Prizes will be awarded thru 10th place in the Release division, thru 3rd place in the Junior Release division, 1st and 2nd place in the Northern division, and 1st place for the Weight division.

Participating in the International Tournament is an excellent way for you to support our chapter. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The money raised from this event will cover about half of our 2004 budget.

If you have fished this tournament before, you already know how much fun it can be. We hope to see you there. It will be a great time.



The release of one of the muskies caught by Chris Cochran on the chapter-sponsored fishing trip to the Manitou system for the Canadian muskie opening. The crystal clear waters of the Manitou allow nice underwater photography.

Canadian Opener at Manitou Lake System

In the final week before the Manitou outing, a helicopter crash and an eye surgery dwindled the group from six to three. Greg Ide, Clark Mattson, and Chris Cochran from the North Metro chapter made the trip to the 50-mile long Manitou Lake system in late June for the Canadian opener.

So the group boating in to Barker Bay Outpost was small but enthusiastic. They needed to be, as the Manitou is immense, with endless spots to fish, and few other fishermen to learn spots from.

The Manitou has fine season-long fishing with 50-plus-inch fish caught from June through October. A few of the Manitou's famous big ones were spotted, but none were caught during the week. The largest *Esox* caught was, in fact, a pike – a 42" monster – over 20 pounds, caught by Chris. A total of eleven muskies were boated – the largest at 40" caught by Greg. A notable day was spent lake trout fishing on a hike-in lake, where several trout up to 15 pounds were caught and released.

From Our President

Now that the season is in full swing, club business slows down a bit. So, there isn't much to report in that realm. However there are a few events I would like to remind you about.

There is just a month left before the International Tournament. This year's Tournament will be September 5th, 6th, and 7th. As always, there will be an impressive prize selection including a Ranger 618 VS with a Mercury motor as the Grand Prize. I hope you are planning to participate this year. If you haven't participated before, this is a good year to try it out and experience it for yourself. Tickets will be available starting August 1st. Adults are \$60 and juniors are \$30. Tournament tickets are available at Thorne Bros, Joe's Sporting Goods, Reeds in Walker, and The One Stop in Longville. You can also order your tickets online at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. If you have any questions about the tournament, you can call me, Joe DeMars, at 612 861-8930 or email me at jmd@connectminnesota.com.

Our annual summer picnic at Minnehaha Park is slotted for our August 12th meeting night. We will not be meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall, so when you show up there and no one else is around, remember to go to Minnehaha Park. This outing always proves to be a good time.

I don't know about you but I'm still waiting for the fish to get hot. I've managed to catch a couple of small fish so far and I've have seen plenty of fish on other outings but it just seems that they they haven't been really hot on the days I've been able to get out. 'Tonka is showing a lot of fish but haven't had any hookups there yet. Mille Lacs is showing big fish but I haven't seen as many there as on 'Tonka. Mille Lacs water level is high again this year and water clarity varies greatly depending on where you are on the lake. Just a few pieces of this year's puzzle to add to your own info.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

August Meeting Is Annual Picnic

The Twin Cities Chapter August meeting will again be our annual Summer Picnic. Meet at Minnehaha Falls Park starting at 6:00 p.m. The club will supply burgers, brats or chicken and the soft drinks. If you are coming, please bring a dish to share. This is an enjoyable night for the whole family. Everyone is invited to share fishing stories and good fun. Bring your maps to share some fishing information! If you have questions, please call Joe DeMars at 612-861-8930.

Chapter Challenge

The 27th Annual Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge will be held August 6 - 8, on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods. The tournament will be headquartered at Red Wing Lodge and hosted by the Fargo-Moorhead chapter, winners of last year's contest.

The Twin Cities chapter is sending two teams to the Challenge. They will compete against teams representing Muskies Inc. chapters nationwide.



Trip Won in Raffle Nets First-Ever Big Fish

Last year one of the trips won at the Project and Rearing Fund Raffle was a week-long trip to Shingwak Resort on Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods won by Stu McIntosh. He was unable to schedule a trip last year, but this spring he and three friends, Chris Mueller, Ryan Buboltz and Jay Kalsbeck went for the Canadian opener.

The trip provided a number of first-ever experiences for Chris. This was his first-ever muskie fishing trip in Canada, and he got his first-ever 50 inch muskie. The fish was caught at 10:50 am on June 23rd and was expertly netted by Stu. It measured 52-1/2 inches with a girth of 24 inches. This is the biggest fish turned in for the Members Only Contest so far.

“Get Off Your Dead Butt and Go Fishing!”

from Juris Ozols

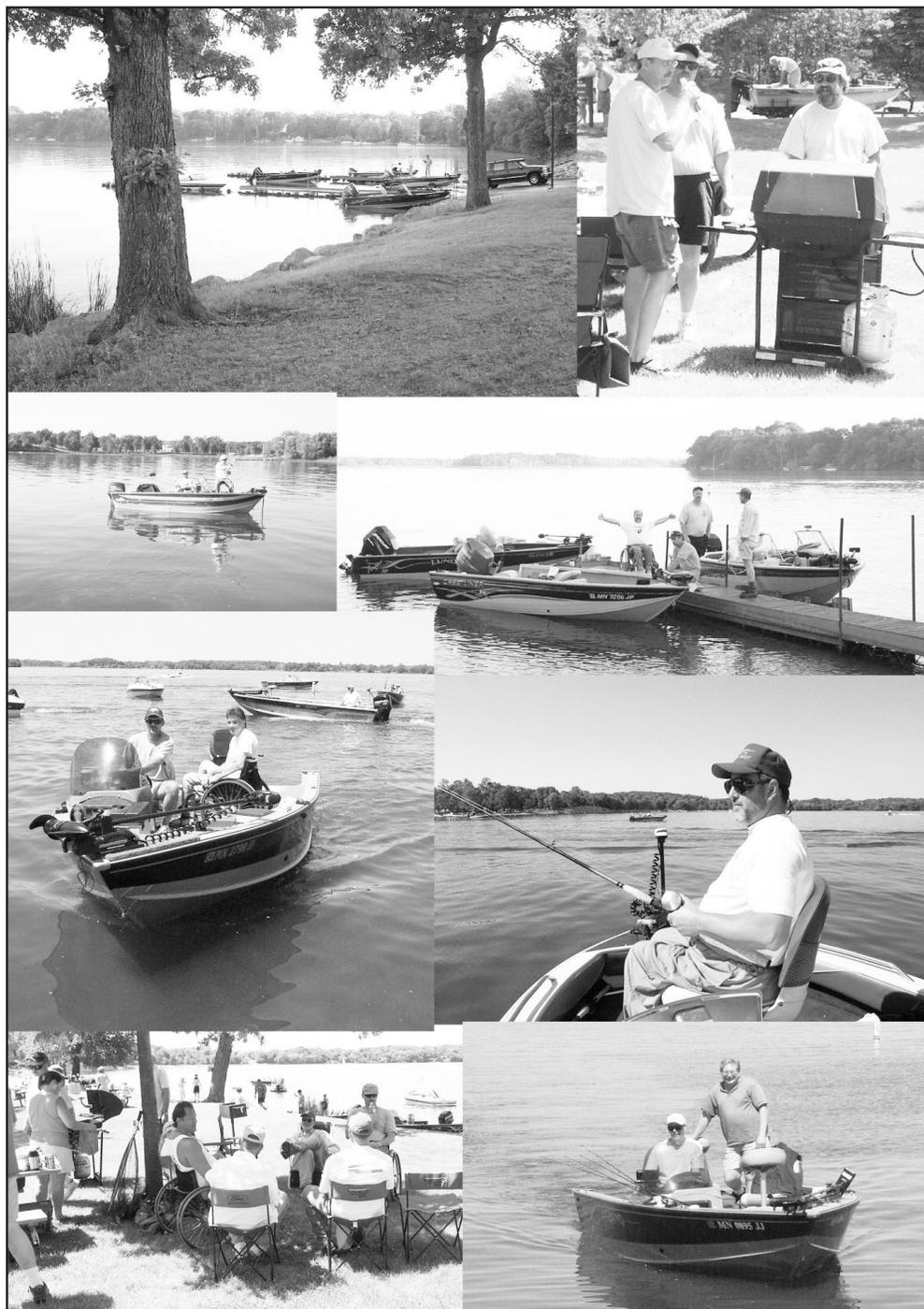
That's advice from Stan Koich, one of the “Capable Partners” with whom our chapter shares a June day every spring. For years now we've been taking those physically challenged but exceptionally eager Muskie anglers out for a morning of fishing on Lake Independence followed by a great shore lunch. This year my buddy Jim Baker and I had the special pleasure of fishing with Stan, whose picture graces the cover of the 2003 Muskies Inc. calendar.

Stan wants to catch a Muskie, you see, he really does. This was his fourth year out after them, and he's still looking for his first one. But you can also see that when he finally gets it – check out those outstretched arms on the calendar – it's going to be a lunker.

Stan fished seriously and without a rest, casting a full assortment of jerk baits, surface lures, and bucktails. And indeed, he wore me out. By mid-morning I had to quit and go back to the boat launch, sit in the shade of a tree, and watch the boats out on the lake. But Stan had Jim take him back out for another couple of hours.

So Stan certainly followed his own advice that day. But like all the Capable Partners members, he does more than fish – you can't accuse him of “sitting on his butt.” He works full time in Child Support Enforcement for the state, has three kids of his own, all of whom fish, and has been in Capable Partners since 1987. He's an avid walleye fisherman, a goose hunter, and goes after deer too. But he's not yet a “Muskie Catcher,” even though he's netted them for others. His parting words as we were leaving? “I'll get one next year.” And I believe he will.

Besides Stan, we had the standard dozen or so Capable Partners folks in



attendance, as well as our regular crowd of Muskie Incers. And I've got all the usual pictures and stories. Let me just note that Tom Lund was on duty once again as chief cook. But this year Tom also had a nasty problem when his trusty Johnson motor on his Yar-Craft didn't start, and he had to go all the way around the lake on his trolling motor. (Only later did Tom realize that

the “cut out” plug had pulled loose from the dash – let that be a lesson for all of us.) But Tom didn't get any fish with all his electrical troubles.

Did anybody else catch anything? I polled the boats as they came in, and it wasn't a total skunk. Joe Demars and Denny Heath reported a bass and a 4 lb. northern. Doug Ivie reported five

continued on page 5

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

WOW!!! As of July 15, I have entered 103 fish ranging from 30" to 52.5" that were released by 31 members. This exceeds last year's record of 21 people and 65 fish. I love getting all these release forms in the mail and at the meetings!

Hot local lakes include Waconia where Steven Wohl has nine releases. Matt Olson also released a fish on Waconia as well as one on Leech Lake. Minnetonka has yielded 12 fish including a 49.25" for Tony Sommerfeld and a 50" for Jim Doyle. Mark Sewald has released four fish on Lake Independence with 47.5" being the longest and three on Big Arbor Vitae, WI. Lonny Hess, John Olson and Duff Thury have all released muskies on Bald Eagle. Duff Thury has also released four fish on Harriet with the longest being 48".

Junior member Evan Nicolai released a 48" muskie on Cass Lake on June 14 and Bob Culbertson has released five fish on Baby Lake. Big Detroit and Big Mantrap were good choices for Scott Eckert and Greg Pirritano released his fish on Big Lake. Jeff Melton spent a week on Little Wolf and released nine fish ranging from 36" to 42". Jeff also has three releases on French Lake.

Sharon and Chris Swentkofske have been fishing a lake or lakes in Aitkin Country with good results – four fish. Tony Walman has released fish on Elk Lake, Minnetonka and Rowan Lake, Ontario, Canada.

Brian Hanson also went to Canada and released two muskies on Rough Rock and one on Little Sand. Elaine and Greg Randolph each released a muskie on Eagle Lake. But the big news comes from Lake of the Woods. John Olson released three fish on Whitefish Bay but they weren't as big as Chris Mueller's 52.5" on June 23. Turk Guderjan released a 48" on June 30 and Todd Doebler released a 50.5" on June 25. Lois and Tom Harvey spent a few days on Sabaskong Bay where Lois released muskies of 36", 41.5" and 48.5".

The PATCH and CERTIFICATE area is missing on the entry forms that were printed earlier this spring but added to the web version. If you are using the printed forms available from me or at the meeting, please note on your form if you want a patch, individual certificate or annual certificate.

Remember, entry forms must be postmarked within 30 days of the catch. Several fish have already been disqualified this year. Don't let it happen to you!

If you have any questions or need release forms, see me at the meeting or call me at 651-452-1209. Mail your completed forms to:

Elaine Randolph
1039 Wedgwood Lane N.
Eagan, MN 55123

Reporting All Fish, Big and Small

STANDINGS AS OF 7/15/2003

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

1	Evan Nicolai	1 fish	22 points
2	James Hedensten	1 fish	8 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	Lois Harvey	3 fish	49 points
2	Elaine Randolph	1 fish	18 points

MEN'S DIVISION

1	Jeff Melton	12 fish	159 points
2	Duff Thury	8 fish	107 points
3	Steven Wohl	9 fish	84 points
4	Jim Doyle	5 fish	62 points
5	Bob Culbertson	6 fish	58 points

MASTER'S DIVISION

1	Mark Sewald	7 fish	102 points
2	Tony Sommerfeld	7 fish	71 points
3	Chris Swentkofske	5 fish	58 points
4	Brian Hanson	3 fish	53 points
5	Sharon Swentkofske	1 fish	11 points
6	Cindy Hegdahl	1 fish	4 points

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

May	John Newman, Jr. Cave Run, Kentucky	49" May 18
June	Chris Mueller unofficial Lake of the Woods	52.5" June 23

Successful Releases

Releasing a muskie is one way to ensure it grows to its true potential. Two easy rules to remember for a successful release are: baits can be replaced – muskies can't; and never keep the fish's head out of water longer than you can hold your breath.

Make the release quick. Have the right equipment readily available. When holding the fish, support the belly with one hand and the tail with the other. After a quick photo, place the fish back in the water and work it slowly back and forth. Remember, never fight the fish longer than necessary, minimize its time out of water, and handle the fish as little as possible.

Capable Partners

continued from page 3

follows and one hit. John Olson lost a northern but didn't see any muskies. Libby and Tim Hoene saw a couple and had a couple of strikes, and then spotted a forty-incher right next to the dock as they were coming in (it didn't hit). Steve Hedensten mostly trolled, to no avail. And a couple of the other boats came back with similar stories.

However, there were two noteworthy catches. First, as our boat was working that underwater bar on the southwest side, we spotted another boat – not one of ours – with a fellow in a fierce battle with a fish. His rod was bent, the fish stayed down, the line was zinging through the water, a beautiful sight! We came in closer, being careful not to get in the way, and watched the fight all the way to the end, as he finally subdued and brought in the 10 lb. carp. I've got pictures. (He released it.)

But who of us did get a real fish? Paul Hartman, out with his regular boat buddy, Rod Guthier, the organizer of the event. Paul hooked into a mid-30s muskie and immediately handed the rod to Rod, who brought the fish in. That was Rod's first muskie, after many, many outings. And of course, like Stan and the rest of the Capable Partners folks, he's talking about the big one that he'll get next year.

So that's Capable Partners for 2003, the last of our chapter's three annual spring events – Vet's Home, the Kid's Outing, and CP. I've been to all of them and written about them now for the last couple of years. I'll close with my usual note: Join us next year. I can't promise you a muskie, and really not a carp either, even though I've got that hotspot marked, but I do promise you the best and most rewarding things that Muskies Inc. has to offer.

this 'n that

Kid's Fishing Contest

Don't forget to keep track of your children's catches this season and enter them in the Chapter Kids Only Fishing Contest. The rules are simple. All fish must be caught by using legal means and the fish must be witnessed by a parent or another adult. Just about any fish a kid may catch will qualify. Children of chapter members age 12 or younger are eligible. An award will be given to each and every child enters at least one of the ten categories. All awards will be made at the 2004 Winter Picnic and Awards Night.

One entry per child should be submitted for the entire 2003 fishing season. All entries must be received no later than January 10, 2004. Submission of photographs when submitting an entry is encouraged. Photographs should have all pertinent information, such as

anglers name, date of catch, size of fish, body of water, etc. on the back of the photo.

Tournament Sponsors

Manufacturer sponsors of this year's international tournament include Ranger, Mercury, Minn kota, G. Loomis, Abu Garcia, Garmen, Frabil, and Cortland. Retail sponsors include Thorne Brothers, Reed's, Joe's Sporting Goods, Crystal-Pierz Marine, Jerry's One Stop, Sportsman's Warehouse, and FiberTech.

Resorts that have contributed stays are Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, Loe's Resort on Leech Lake, Spirit of the North Resort on Leech Lake, Huddle's Resort on Leech Lake, Sah Kah Tay Resort on Cass Lake, New Leech Lake Campground on Leech Lake, Maple Beach Resort on Big Lake.

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TICKET ORDER FORM

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER MUSKIES INC. • 36th Annual FRANK SCHNEIDER, JR. INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Complete this form and mail (between August 1-25) with payment to:

Muskies Inc.
International Tournament
7125 17th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

- Adult Contestant \$60.00 Junior Contestant \$30.00
 Friday Night Feed \$12.00 (Friday Feed is optional)

Indicate the location you will be attending:

- Leech Lake (Fireside Inn, Highway 200)
 Cass Lake (Stoney Point, Canal House Restaurant)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____

**Mail order tickets must be postmarked by August 25, 2003.
ENTRY NOT VALID WITHOUT SIGNATURE BELOW**

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR THIS TICKET

<input type="checkbox"/> I will be using my own boat. Make _____ Model _____ Yr. ____ Motor _____ HP _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I will NOT be using my own boat	<small>INFORMATION MAY BE GIVEN TO OTHER PARTIES</small>
---	--

Make copies of this form if you want to purchase more than one ticket with a single payment.
We must have separate form with signature for each participant.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY – PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate among and on boats under the auspices of Muskies Inc. International and Twin Cities Chapter, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. I am aware of the inherit risk associated with fishing and boating, including but not limited to the risks of collisions with other boats and stationary objects in and around the lake, including rocks, reefs, or piers or other vehicles and trailers at landing areas. I am familiar with other risks up to and including death by drowning associated with rough water, changing weather patterns, heavy winds and lightning storms. I expressly assume all risks associated with this tournament and I hereby release Muskies, Inc International and the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc., the host, sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims of negligence resulting from injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with the tournament.
2. I knowingly and freely assume all risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of those persons released from liability below, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and
3. I will comply with all the rules and regulations. If I have a question, or observe any unusual or unnecessary hazard during my participation, I will immediately bring such to the attention of the nearest official; and
4. I, for myself and on the behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin. Hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the Muskies Inc, International and the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc, the owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the tournament, their officers, officials ("Releasees") with respect to any injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ALL CONTESTANTS PARTICIPATING IN TOURNAMENT

Please print contestant's name:

I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

Participant's Signature _____

Date Signed _____

FOR JUNIOR CONTESTANTS

(Under Age 18 at time of Registration)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian of this participant, do consent and agree to his/her indemnification, release and hold harmless as provided above of all Releasees, and I, for myself and behalf of my heirs, assigns and next of kin, hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all claims incident to my child's involvement in these programs even if arising out of the negligence of the Releasees, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date Signed _____



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612-618-4922

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calendar of events

Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West 79th Street, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.) at 7:00 pm.

AUGUST 6-8

Chapter Challenge, Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

AUGUST 12

Annual Chapter Picnic: Meet at Minnehaha Falls Park

AUGUST 16-23

Chapter Fishing Trip: Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

SEPTEMBER 5-7

Frank Schneider Jr. International Muskie Tournament

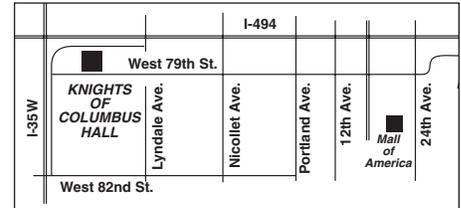
SEPTEMBER 9

General Meeting, Knights of Columbus Hall

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4

Chapter Fishing Trip: Muskie Bay Resort, Crow Lake, Ontario

**TWIN CITIES
CHAPTER
MEETINGS
HELD AT THE
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS HALL
IN BLOOMINGTON**



Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington is located just south of I-494 on West 79th Street just off Lyndale Avenue South. To get there from I-494, exit at Lyndale Ave., turn south to the first light (W. 79th St.) and turn west (right). The KC Hall is about three blocks on the right side. From I-35W you can exit at 82nd St., follow the east frontage road to 79th St. and turn east (right). The KC Hall is on the left. Or take 82nd St. east to Lyndale, turn north (left), go to the first light at 79th St. Turn west (left) and proceed to the hall. Park in the lot on the west side of the building.

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next meeting

AUGUST 12

**CHAPTER PICNIC AT
MINNEHAHA PARK**

Come at 6:00 and bring a dish to share. The club will provide burgers, brats, or chicken and beverages.



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Richfield, MN 55423

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