



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2003

Smokey Swenson Benefit Auction a Success

from Paul Hartman

For those of you that could not attend the Twin cities chapter December meeting – a Benefit-Auction for Smokey Swenson – you missed what was truly a moving night. The meeting started with a quick election of the board of directors and officers. From that point on it was a mixture of bidding wars at both a live auction and silent auction tables. Events such as this prove that Muskies Inc. is much more than just a fishing club – it's small-town America right here in the big city – and it's showing a friend how much you care with actions rather than words.

After first visiting Smokey in intensive care at North Memorial Hospital early this October it became apparent this would be a long, expensive recovery for him. When the fundraising efforts started, I was hoping we could break the \$8,000 mark, but never anticipated we would raise nearly double that – a total of \$15,700!

Paul Villnow logged countless hours on the Internet keeping muskie anglers from Hopkins to Holland abreast of the club's efforts and Smokey's current condition. This brought in an impressive amount of donations of both cash and auction items. The night of the auction the committee was scrambling to mark and display all of the additional donations that kept coming through the doors with attendees.

The benefit-auction lasted until 11:00 pm with Matt Thompson from Thorne Bros. auctioning off item after



item. Perhaps Matt summed up the feeling of the evening best when he observed "this is not lets-get-a-bargain night... it's time to dig deep into our pockets and help a friend in need."

The nearly 200 in attendance spent an average of \$90 each and most stayed until the very end of our record latest-running meeting. Smokey, who surprised a lot of us by showing up, struggled to remain composed while speaking to the group, calling the benefit-auction the "most overwhelming event of my life."

There are too many people who donated items for the auction to possibly mention everyone. However, I especially want to mention Thorne Brothers, who gave as their contribution nearly \$2900 in products to auction for only \$900. Many individuals gave cash donations with 11 giving \$100 each. Red Wing Lodge supported an life-long guest by donating a one-week trip for 4 anglers next September. Many fellow guides donated trips, and Tony Grant included a week lodging with his

outing. The entire donation list will be on the welcome table at our January meeting.

Patti Slack spent hours organizing before and at the auction while Greg and Elaine Randolph and Terri DuBe kept it all together at the cash register. Finally, I personally want to thank every person in the room that night for giving so freely to such a dear friend. Any additional donations can be mailed to: SMOKEY SWENSON'S BENEFIT, P.O. Box 932, Forest Lake, MN 55025-0932.

Smokey's stroke and heart attack occurred in early October and his slow, rocky road to recovery will return him home early in the new year. The outpouring of sympathy and support the past months was inspiring and helped fuel Smokey's drive to recover. There is still much progress to be made, but I look forward to fishing with Smokey again in Iowa's 3rd Annual "Spring Tune-up Tournament" in late April. He has vowed to spend two straight weeks at Red Wing Lodge in August for our chapter outing and the Chapter Challenge.

We will continue to push Smokey in his recovery as Muskies Inc. expects at least another 20 years of service and dedication from him!!!

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Starting with the January meeting, the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. will hold the general meetings at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington. Directions are on the back cover of this issue.

From Our President

IT'S OFFICIAL. The Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. has acquired a new home to hold our meetings. Starting in January, we will be meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West 79th Street in Bloomington. Make yourself a note and don't forget where to go in January. Meeting times and days remain the same; board meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, and general meetings on the second Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

I think you will enjoy the new location and hope you will come out to see it for yourself. There is a full bar and on Tuesdays there is a concession stand where you can get hot dogs, pizza, and other snacks.

If you do forget about the new location we will have people at the old location to remind and direct you to the new spot.

At the December meeting, we held elections for board members and officers. All current board members will remain and five new members were elected; Sean Kelliet, Stu McIntosh, Dianne Dahl, Eric Shultz, and Chris Mueller. I want to thank the veteran members for remaining and welcome the new board members. Rob Laliberte will serve as the new secretary and all the other officers will stay. Juris Ozols is stepping down as secretary. Thanks for his service the past year.

Finally I want to thank all of the people involved with the benefit auction for Smokey Swenson – those that worked on putting the event together, those that donated cash and auction items, and all the people that turned out for the event itself – to make it the great success that it was. I know Smokey appreciated it. It was an event to be proud of.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Annual Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet February 8

Our Twin Cities chapter Annual Winter Picnic/Awards Ceremony is just around the corner. It's an evening filled with fun, fellowship, food, and fish stories for the whole family. There will be a special area for kid's games, as well as blackjack, "Wheel of Lures," darts and bingo for the rest of the family. And there will be raffles and lots of other opportunities for everyone to "update" their tackle boxes. If you attend you will have a GREAT time!

This year the picnic will be held at our new meeting location, the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington (1114 West 79th Street) on Saturday, February 8. Note that this is a change from previously announced information. Games will begin at 6:00 with dinner served at 7:30.

Following the dinner we will honor the top achievers for both our Kids-Only and Members-Only Fishing Contests.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person for TC Chapter members and \$16.00 per person for non-members. They will be on sale at the January meeting, or contact Patti Slack (952-808-1469) by February 1st to make reservations.

We look forward to seeing you all there!!

Members Only Contest And The Winners Are...

To be announced at the Winter Picnic/Awards Ceremony. The 2002 Members Only Contest ended December 31 and all entries post-marked by January 4, 2003 were entered. By January 10th everything is entered on the web and the winner's names sent to the international chairman. No exceptions! Time is short! The Winter Picnic/Awards Ceremony is February 8!

The winners will be announced in the February newsletter and I'll have statistics ready for March. By April everyone will be taking trips to warmer muskie waters and sending in entry forms. And thus the process begins again.

Reporting all fish, big and small,

Elaine Randolph, Twin Cities Chapter Chair

Kids Fishing Contest

Mail entries for the Twin Cities Chapter's Kid's Fishing Contest to arrive no later than January 10, 2003 to Elaine Randolph, 1039 Wedgwood Lane N., Eagan, MN 55123 who will be tabulating entries for contest chair Smokey Swenson.

This is a multi-species contest for kids 12 or younger whose parent(s) are members of the Twin Cities Chapter. Awards will go to kids who catch just about any fish of any size. Winners will be announced at the Twin Cities Chapter Winter Picnic/Awards evening February 8. If you need an entry form, contact Elaine.



December's Benefit Auction for Smokey Swenson a Great Evening to Help a Friend in Need

Top left: Nearly 200 people showed up for December's meeting, a benefit-auction fundraiser to help long-time TC chapter member Smokey Swenson.

Top right: Attendees peruse the roomful of tables loaded with items for both Silent and Live auctions.

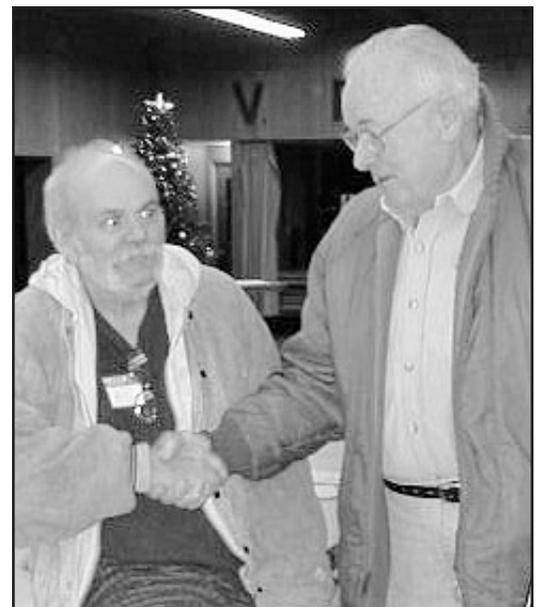
Right: Bidders keeping track of the many items being bid for in the silent auction.

Far right: "Auctioneer" Matt Thompson displays a lure for going up for bid at the live auction. The evening ended with Matt directing lively bids for two different prints.



Left: International MI President Perry Smith (right), who came in from Wisconsin just for this event, discusses his donation – a map of Lake of the Woods personally marked with his own best spots – with the top bidder, Duane Douden. Perry's wife donated a hand-made quilt made especially for this event that went to the highest bidder for \$500.

Right: Another Muskies Inc. old-timer, Frank Schneider, Jr. takes time to greet Smokey as the evening winds down.



Thank you for the flowers.
They were beautiful and
lasted a couple of weeks, so
I really enjoyed them.
Thanks also for the cards
you all signed. I means a lot.
Thanks again,

Jerri Glander

Jerri, 20+ year TC chapter Board Member recently had surgery. The chapter sent her flowers and cards were signed at the general meeting and sent to her.

Volunteers are needed to work our chapter's MI booth at the St. Paul Sports Show, January 15-19. Call Brad Coyne at 612-724-6697.

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Dryberry Tales II

from Juris Ozols

I forgot to tell you last time that I rewarded Tom Bastian for his magnificent efforts in rescuing my daughter's crank bait from that tree during our trip to Dryberry. In a moment of reckless magnanimity, I told him I would buy all his beer for a full year.

Later, I came to grips with what I had done. I was exceptionally familiar with Tom's drinking habits. It struck me: I faced financial ruin.

The opportunity to correct the situation came to pass the next evening. After a hard day of fruitless muskie fishing, a game or two of cribbage at the cabin's table offered a nice way to relax. I took on Tom. But I told him we had to have a wager: double or nothing on the beer. Either I would buy him beer for two years, or not at all. He agreed. Our trip partners, including my long-time fishing buddy Jerry, gathered to watch.

I felt quite safe, for Tom had already sampled a bottle of Labatts or two – see above. His card-playing skills were certainly not at a peak. I drank Diet Dr. Pepper that evening. My mind was sharp as a tack.

We started the game. Tom jumped out to a substantial lead, due to sheer luck. By exceptional, cunning play, particularly pegging, I managed to close the lead. We came to the last hand, my crib. We were both only a few points from going out. Tom counted first, struggling a bit to add up all the "15's" and a run. And would you believe it, he ended up in the "Skunk Hole," one point from going out. I had far more points than I needed. Victory was mine!

As I was about to claim the game, Jerry looked at Tom's hand. "You missed Nobs," he said, "Jack of Clubs." Tom grabbed the cards, took another look himself, and cackled. He picked up the peg, in the skunk hole, and moved it into the winner's hole. The game was his. I owed him two years of beer.

Neal and Terry laughed so hard they fell off their chairs. Tom, of course, didn't restrain himself either. I stared at Jerry. He hung his head down. I got up, slowly, climbed into my bunk, and pulled the covers over my head.

I vowed never to speak to Jerry again. Although I had to break that vow, even already the next morning as we went out after the Dryberry muskies, I'm still debating my revenge. But it's hopeless – how can you possibly get even for such a glorious job of sabotage from a friend of twenty-five years?

Chapter Elections Held in December

At the December meeting, yearly elections were held for the Board of Directors for the chapter. Five newly-elected members who will serve two-year terms are Dianne Dahl, Shawn Kellett, Stu McIntosh, Chris Mueller, and Eric Schultz. Joe DeMars will continue to serve as our chapter's President. Curt Ellis, First Vice President; Dick Halvorson, Second Vice President; Steve Hedensten, Treasurer and Elaine Randolph, Members-Only and International Fishing Contest will also remain. George Selke, our Regional Vice President, representative on the International Muskies Inc board, will continue in that position and Rob Laliberte will serve as secretary.

The board meets the first Tuesday of each month and is open to all members. Your ideas might be the ones needed to get all chapter members involved in the monthly meetings, Winter Picnic, Vets Home Opener, fundraisers and other chapter functions.

TIPS FOR FINANCIAL HEALTH
FROM WADDELL & REED

At year-end, take time to review your finances

"The end of each year is a great time to evaluate your financial position, consider the impact of any changes in your life and adjust your financial plan for future needs or new goals."

ANTHONY J. SOMMERFELD
WADDELL & REED
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Each December brings the close of another year. It is easy to forget about one of the most important aspects of your life: your financial situation. To maintain a proper perspective on your finances we recommend you take time every December to reconsider your financial plan. You then may be better prepared to make any necessary changes in January, as a new year begins. If you don't have a financial plan, it is also a great time to put one together. Several key points should receive consideration:

**Insurance coverage • Diversification
Children's education needs • Retirement savings
Emergency cash fund**

The holidays are filled with many commitments. Planning for a comfortable future isn't one that you should avoid. Before you know it, a new year will be upon us. Let me help put you in the best position for the years to come.

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tc chapter contacts

OFFICERS

President/International Tournament Director

Joe DeMars
612-861-8930

First Vice President

Curtis Ellis
952-830-1498

Second Vice President

Dick Halvorson
952-881-7402

Treasurer

Steve Hedensten
651-765-2493

Secretary

Rob Laliberte
612-618-4922

Regional Vice President

George Selcke
952-933-2608

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fishing Outings/Kids Fishing Contest

Smokey Swenson
612-588-1895

Members Only Contest

Elaine Randolph
651-452-1209
e-rand@tc.umn.edu

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Brad Coyne
612-724-6697

Dianne Dahl
651-699-9817

Paul Hartman
651-488-9017

Jay Kalsbeck
651-388-8772

Shawn Kellett
952-380-1218

Jim Kroupa
952-474-5967

Stu McIntosh
651-699-9817

Chris Mueller
651-688-3216

Juris Ozols
952-431-4727

Russ Peterson
612-540-0166

Frank Schneider
651-489-7341

Eric Schultz
651-917-8272

Chris Swentkofske
763-413-9776

Paul Villnow
651-464-6583

Tony Vold
952-938-7261

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olson@3pete.com



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calendar of events

*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.*

JANUARY 14
General Meeting:
Speaker – Marv Kiley

JANUARY 15-19
St. Paul Sportsman's
Show

FEBRUARY 8
Annual TC Chapter
Winter Picnic/Awards
Ceremony
KC Hall Bloomington

FEBRUARY 11
General Meeting

MARCH 7-9
Muskie Expo – National
Sports Center, Blaine

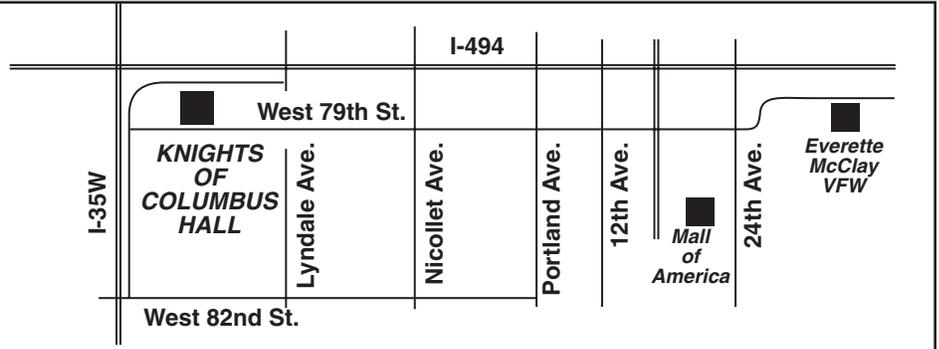
MARCH 11
General Meeting

THE 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.*



*Marv Kiley, one of the best muskie
anglers, will be sharing patterns
that produce monster fish for him
in Minnesota as well as Ontario.
He has a few methods you will
want to learn.*

SPEAKER: MARV KILEY

JANUARY 14
meeting
next

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inside**

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