

On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 10

October 2003



2003 Frank Schneider, Jr. International Tournament

Twenty-five Feet of Muskies and a Cell Phone

from Juris Ozols

I'll get to the cell phone piece a bit later, but the two-dozen feet of muskies are clearly the top story of the 36th Annual Twin Cities Chapter 2003 Frank Schneider, Jr. International Tournament.

Here's the deal on that: Tournament champion Jeff

Anderson and his friend Troy Bertram, third-place winner, shared a boat on Lake Bemidji, as they often do. Between them they pulled in six legal muskies over 40 inches, plus one sub-legal at 37 inches. That's a total of some 310 inches, or more than 25 feet of muskies. And not only that, but Troy also got the longest release of the tournament, a massive 54-inch. Talk about catching!

So how did Jeff and Troy beat out the other 733 people that fished the Tournament on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 5th, 6th & 7th? Well, I

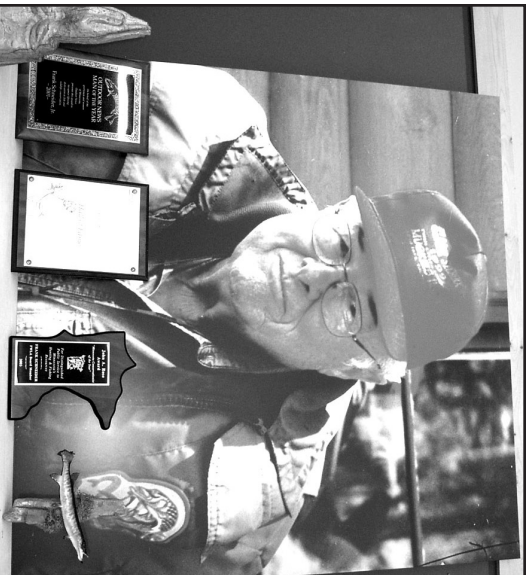
tactics clearly paid off.

As far as lures go, they fished a lot of bucktails. Troy caught his big fish on, well, apparently a "secret lure." So we don't know for sure, but Troy admitted it was black.

One other note: On Sunday morning Jeff lost a big fish. They were on the water, fishing at 6:01 am, one of their "oddball spots." On his fourth or fifth cast Jeff got a huge fish on and played it for some three minutes. Finally, the fish came up to the boat, opened its mouth, the lure fell out, and the fish sank into the depths.

Jeff estimates it at some 52 or 53 inches. That's over four feet. If he had caught that one – not that he needed it to win the tournament – their boat would have brought in over thirty feet of muskies. Incredible.

How did the other anglers do? Not a bad year. We had 735 people competing, about the



Display honoring Frank Schneider, Jr. at the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame in Walker, Minnesota.

A Memorable Day for Frank Schneider Jr.

from Juris Ozols

I'm not talking about Sunday at the tournament awards ceremony. (That's the event named after Frank, you may recall.) Yes, Frank's name got drawn for a door prize, and yes, he did get a special award for being the oldest angler in the tournament. But the memorable day was on

Saturday, September 6, when Frank Schneider was inducted into the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame.

That's just one more honor for a man who has done even so much not just for Muskies but for all

From Our President

The 2003 Frank Schneider, Jr. International Muskie Tournament has come and gone. All in all, it was a pretty good event.

Fishing was better than last year by far. 119 fish were registered overall. The first 17 places caught two or more fish and the adult release winner, Jeff Anderson of Bennidji, registered four fish at 48", 45", 44.5" and 41". The winning junior, Nick Ackley of Bennidji, scored four times with fish at 45.5", 44", 41.5" and 40.5". Nick's 67.5 points was second overall in the tournament.

Fish by lake were as follows:
Leech Lake – 48, Cass Lake – 22,
Lake Bennidji – 21, Big Lake – 13,
Lake Ingwadoma – 4, Wabedo Lake – 4, Lake Winnie – 3, Little Boy

Lake – 2, Baby Lake – 1, and Mann Lake – 1. Fish numbers weren't the only highlights of the tournament. A number of large fish were caught. Six fish in the fifty or better range were registered with the largest being 54"

out of Lake Bennidji caught by Troy Bertram of Mound, MN. This year's boat winner was Eric Jacobson formerly of Clear Vue Resort on Lake Bennidji. Congratulations, Eric!

If I had to pick out one moment that summed up the spirit of the tournament, I wouldn't have to look very far: Prior to the awards presentation at Walker Park on Sunday, a father and his young son got my attention to tell me that this was the first time fishing the tournament

and the father stated that this was the best \$90 he had ever spent. They enjoyed the whole experience even though they had only one fish between them – a northern – and they will be returning next year. To me, those comments define the purpose and intention of the tournament to a "Y": to have a good time!

Sometime during October, we will be stocking fish in White Bear Lake. As that time draws closer, we will attempt to get the exact date out to those who are interested in participating. If you are interested, contact Patti Slack at 952-808-1469. She is the caretaker of the list.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars



Frank Schneider, Jr. with wife, June, (center) and all the well-wishers from Muskies Inc. who attended Frank's induction into the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame, September 6.

Fishing Hall of Fame

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outdoor sports.

But here's another side of the man.

At his acceptance speech, Frank

strongly is "more youth." We have to get our youth involved not just in muskies, but fishing in general. Frank told a story or two about his own sons, John and Jerry, who were raised in a fishing family and are avid fishermen to this day.

The induction ceremony was attended by some 100 people at the Hall of Fame in Walker, and hosted by Al Maas, also a Hall of Fame Member. Butch Furtman, a multi-species angler and longtime host of television outdoors shows was also enshrined. This makes Frank and Butch the 25th and 26th members of the Hall of Fame, started by Jeff Arnold of Reed's and a group of dedicated fishermen.

The Hall of Fame building is just

Tournament

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In contrast to the 90+ degree days last year, the weather on Friday was windy but not as hot, Saturday warmed up a bit, and then Sunday started out as a pretty morning but then got quite hot for the awards ceremony at Walker City Park.

The top finishers are as follows:

Muskie Release Division: 1st place – Jeff Anderson – Bemidji, MN – 4 fish – 74.5 pts; 2nd – Jeremy Doerhoefer – Blooming Prairie, MN – 3 fish – 64 pts; 3rd – Troy Bertram – Mound, MN – 2 fish – 42.5 pts; 4th – Rick Younquist – Stacy, MN – 2 fish – 40.5 pts; 5th – Mike Watson – Stillwater, MN – 2 fish – 39 pts; 6th – Tim Weinkauff – Nevis, MN – 2 fish – 38 pts; 7th – Sam McSharry – Bemidji, MN – 2 fish – 37.5 pts; 8th – John Sowards – E. Grand. Forks, MN – 2 fish – 37 pts; 9th – Geoff Adams – Scandia, MN – 2 fish – 36.5 pts; 10th – Duane Hill, Bemidji, MN – 2 fish – 36.5 pts

Jr. Division: 1st – Nick Ackley (12) Bemidji, MN – 4 fish; 67.5 pts; 2nd – Bryan Hinrichson (17) Blue Earth, MN – 2 fish – 32.5 pts

Northern Division: 1st – Brent Schnupp – Glencoe, MN – 39.5" – 13.5 pts; 2nd – Mark Federation – Star Prairie, MN – 39" – 13 pts

Note that 12-year-old Nick Ackley from Bemidji got four fish to win the junior division. That would have put

him in second place in the adult category. We'll have to see what the young man does next year.

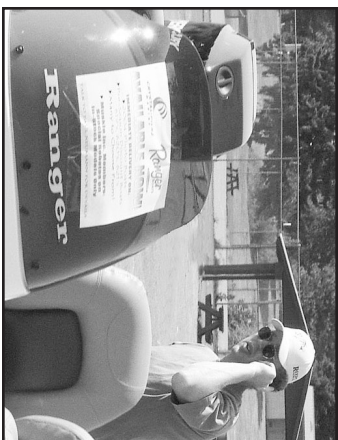
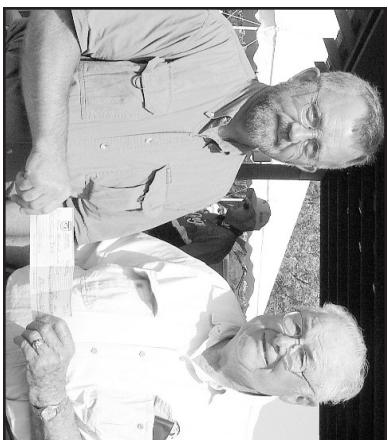
Joe Carlson, substituting for last year's emcee Matt Thompson, hosted the awards ceremony. (Matt apparently had a previous engagement to fish in a Walleye Tournament in Iowa, which did not go unnoticed.)

Our chapter awarded prizes worth well over \$30,000 at retail prices, including a number of trips donated by resorts and guides. In addition, we presented a \$3,000 donation to the Minnesota DNR. Frank Schneider, Jr. handed the check over to Harlan Feirstine. "Right off the top," said Frank. "We always give the DNR the first three thousand."

But the big prize was the 2003 Ranger 618-VS with a 125 Merc, Garmin electronics, and Minnkota trolling motor. Eric Jacobson of Garrison, MN in 87th place with a 40" muskie caught on Lake Bemidji, had his name drawn to take home the \$24,000 boat package.

Which brings me back to the cell phone. The first thing that Eric did, after hearing his name announced, was to get on his cell phone and call home to his wife. And he talked to her for some ten minutes before finally getting out to walk around his new boat and sit in the driver's seat. And he had a big smile on his face the whole time.

Photos: top – Frank Schneider. **Jr. presenting the \$3000 check to Harlan Feirstine; middle** – Grand prize winner Eric Jacobson with his cell phone and new boat; **bottom** – Troy Bertram and Jeff Anderson with their plaques for first and third place, plus the plaque for longest release.



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Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

October and time for the "big" fish to start feeding. But wait, some of the "big" fish have already been caught.

- David Nicolai – 55.5" (24.5" girth) on August 9 on Leech
- Mark Sewald – 47" on August 9 on Lake of the Woods
- Patrick Cotter – 50" on August 24 on Leech Lake
- Duff Thury – 47" on August 26 on Leech Lake
- Brian Hanson – 53" on August 30 on Mille Lacs
- Kurt Hostager – 48" on September 9 on White Bear

On August 13 Scott Snyder released a 44" on Cass Lake and attached this note to his entry. *I fish by myself so I use a camera on a tripod with a timer on it. After taking 2 pictures I went to put the fish back I the lake but I felt some resistance. I turned around and noticed my dog Minoqwa had his whole mouth around the back of the fish. He wanted to eat it.*

The "Catch of the Month" goes to Curt Ellis with a 35" on Forest on July 20. Curt was using a phantom jerk bait but when he landed the fish, he only had line tangled in the teeth. Was the lure a "phantom"?

MEMBERS ONLY STANDINGS: (as of 9/15/2003)

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1 Ewan Nicolai – 4 fish – 63 points
- 2 Gary Wolf – 1 fish – 15 points
- 3 James Hedensten – 1 fish – 8 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Lois Harvey – 5 fish – 79 points
- 2 Terrie DuBe' – 3 fish – 39 points
- 3 Linda Knutson – 2 fish – 36 points
- 4 Elaine Randolph – 1 fish – 18 points
- 5 Kim Carroll – 2 fish – 15 points
- 6 Liz Sewald – 1 fish – 5 points

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Jeff Melton – 21 fish – 292 points
- 2 Brent Hirsch – 15 fish - 210 points
- 3 Bob Culbertson – 19 fish – 208 points
- 4 Duff Thury – 13 fish – 162 points
- 5 Matt Olson – 16 fish – 142 points
- 6 Jim Doyle – 10 fish – 119 points
- 7 David Gustafson – 8 fish – 100 points
- 8 Jake Heath – 6 fish – 99 points
- 9 Dean Roll – 6 fish – 92 points
- 10 Steve Wahl – 9 fish – 84 points

- 7 Mark Fredrick – 1 fish – 24 points
- 8 Sharon Swentkofske – 1 fish – 11 points
- 9 Cindy Hegdahl – 2 fish – 10 points

HYBRID DIVISION

(MINIMUM LENGTH FOR CONTEST IS 45")

No entries

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

- May official – John Newman, Jr. – 49" – Cave Run Reservoir – May 18
- June official – Chris Mueller – 52.5" - Lake of the Woods – June 23
- July official – George Wahl – 52" – Lake of the Woods – July 19

- August unofficial – David Nicolai – 55.5" – Leech Lake – August 9
- Sept unofficial – Kurt Hostager – 48" – White Bear – September 9

Lake Vermillion Weekend Outing Planned

The chapter has recently put together a great fishing outing at Lake Vermillion for the weekend of October 17-19.

The trip includes a two-night/three-day stay at one of the nicest resorts on the lake, Vermillion Dam Resort. The \$78 per person cost of the weekend includes boat launching and docking. Food is included, but the group will probably do a group cook-out both nights.

Plan on arriving anytime on Friday and leaving anytime on Sunday. If you want to hunt, bring your shotgun. Some participants will be going grouse hunting in the mornings and anyone is welcome to join in. Brad Coyne will be bringing his hunting dogs.

If you don't have a boat or a fishing partner and want to join the group for the weekend, a partner and/or boat will be arranged. There is lots of space.

A \$25 deposit will reserve your space for this great weekend. Call Brad Coyne at 612-724-6697 or Dick Halvorson at 952-221-3299 to make reservations.

Mini-Challenge to be October 4

Some support the chapter in its quest to create the annual



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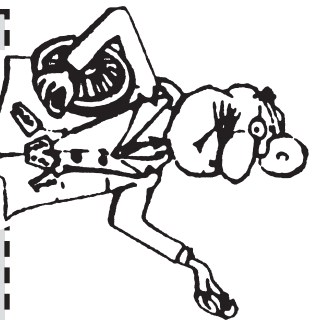
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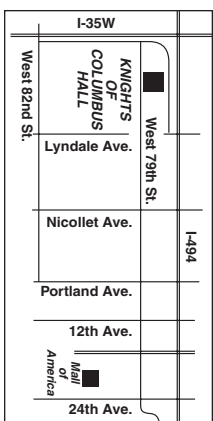
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calendar of events

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.

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



SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4
Chapter Fishing Trip: Muske Bay Resort, Crow Lake, Ontario

OCTOBER 4
Mini-Challenge with North Metro, 7:00 am - noon, Lake Independence

OCTOBER 14
General Meeting. Speaker:
Tony Grant

OCTOBER 17-19
Chapter Fishing Trip: Vermillion Dam Resort, Lake Vermillion

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.

what's inside

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