



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 9

September 2003

Winnipeg River Chapter Outing

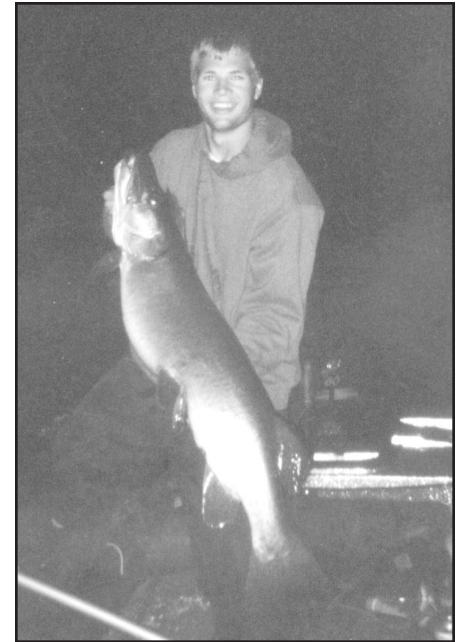
As always, the Chapter outing to the Winnipeg River was enjoyed by all thirteen participants. Mid-July in Ontario traditionally has all the extremes in weather and this trip was no exception. The first three days had stable weather and fishing was phenomenal. Within hours of taking their arrival, Dave and Linda Knudson were well on their way to a tremendous week. In fact, Linda caught her largest muskie – a heavy-built 48-incher at their second spot. Most participants experienced explosive action with large fish showing on nearly every spot.

A number of the outing participants experimented with night fishing and the results were better than expected. After long days with numerous follows, most of the fish seemed to transform into biters under the cover of dark. Luke Ronnestrand and Matt Fritze caught nine of their eleven muskies during mosquito time. Midway through the week, a day of rain and wind made boat control tough but the fish went wild. Unfortunately on the back side of every fish-producing weather front comes a classic cold front. The weather during the latter part of the trip made for tough fishing.

The most impressive story of the trip was how Dave Stanoch persistently sought after an upper 50-inch fish he had located before. With each close call he had with this fish he became more determined to put her in the boat. Dave's chance finally arrived with only 24 hours remaining in the trip. He finessed the fish into biting a small 6" glide bait and the fish stayed on long enough to displace gallons of water as

it flipped its porpoise-sized tail in Dave's general direction. Seconds later, the line went slack and Dave knew his chance had passed... At least this year.

In all, the thirteen anglers landed 39 muskies with four 48-inchers topping the list. This was impressive since half these folks had never participated in this outing before. On top of this, the water was three feet lower than normal, which made all the spots much different to fish. We were fortunate not to have any accidental contact with reefs or points. All participants vowed to return again next year leaving five openings for others interested in attending if everyone does return. Reserve your place early by contacting Paul Hartman at 651-488-9017.



Matt Fritze with a night-time muskie, one of three 48-inchers caught during the Winnipeg River chapter outing.

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

GOOD LUCK to everyone fishing the International Tournament September 5-7. When you catch the winning fish, remember that tournament registration forms stay with the Tournament and are not forwarded to me. You must fill out a Members Only release form and mail it within 30 days.

When couples or families go fishing together, many things can happen. Mark Sewald took his wife Liz on her first muskie-fishing trip and she released a 31" on Independence. Cindy Hegdahl raised a 50" muskie and Mark Fredrick caught it on the very next cast. The Heath family had a banner week on Leech Lake during the Muskie/Northern Derby Days. Carol won the women's division with 4 releases, Dennis placed third in the men's division with 5 releases and lucky Jake won the men's division with 6 releases including a 47". Dave Knutson called me for some release forms so his wife Linda could enter her 39.5" and 48" releases from Canada. Richard Wolff released a 47" on Vermilion and son Gary released a 41". George Wahl ran me down on Lake of the Woods so he could enter his 52" muskie. Yes, I almost always carry release forms.

In the month of July, Brent Hirsch released 13 muskies on the Winnipeg, the longest being 49". He also released two on the Chippewa Flowage. Dean Roll

continued inside

From Our President

From all reports it seems the picnic at Minnehaha was well attended and all had a good time. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to family business. I apologize to all those who were looking to take care of their tournament entries there. I fully intended to be there but I still find it hard to be in two places at the same time. I'll have to keep working on that one.

I hope your fishing season has been more productive than mine. So far I've only managed to boat two fish. One 32-incher in April in Iowa and a 20-incher in June out of the St. Croix. I spent a week on Lake Vermilion in July and was only able to raise fish from just before sunset to about half an hour afterwards.

I did experience a couple of firsts while there though. Both times I was fishing a Jackpot. The first was when I had a big fish blow-up at boat side after dark. I never saw it coming – too dark and she missed the bait. Dang near wet my pants.

The second was when I had another fish trailing my Jackpot for nearly the whole retrieve throwing a 2-3 inch wake behind the lure. I'm thinking that this is going to be the one – but about 10 feet from the boat it gave up and wasn't seen again that night. Kind of sad to have to resort to that kind of informa-

tion to extract some sort of story out of a fishing trip. Oh, well!!

At this writing we are putting the final touches on the Frank Schneider International Muskie Tournament. If you're interested in helping in any way, please contact me. I'll make sure we make good use of your service. We'll need the most help on Sunday the 7th at the Awards Banquet. If you don't make arrangements to help out beforehand, just track me down at the park on Sunday and I'll let you know how you can help. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. Hope you make it!

As we near September, we draw closer to cooler weather and the time to be thinking about stocking fish in White Bear Lake. Look for more information on this as October approaches. We'll try to arrange it so members can participate. I've done it a couple of times and it's a rewarding experience.

Also, as fall approaches, it's time to consider serving on our Chapter Board. We always need people who are willing and able to help. If you're interested in being on the board or if you'd like to nominate someone, contact me or any other board member with your nomination.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Members Only Contest

released 4 fish, 46" being the longest on Little Sand. Tom Batina has 8 releases from Lake of the Woods. Duff Thury released a 34" on the Mississippi River in Dakota County and a couple more on Harriet.

Keep those release forms coming – I love getting interesting mail! If you have 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

MEMBERS ONLY STANDINGS: (AS OF 8/11/2003)

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1 Evan Nicolai – 3 fish – 51 points
- 2 Gary Wolff – 1 fish – 15 points
- 3 James Hedensten – 1 fish – 8 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Lois Harvey – 3 fish – 49 points
- 2 Linda Knutson – 2 fish – 36 points
- 3 Elaine Randolph – 1 fish – 18 points
- 4 Terrie DuBe – 1 fish – 15 points
- 5 Liz Sewald – 1 fish – 5 points

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Jeff Melton – 17 fish – 234 points
- 2 Brent Hirsch – 15 fish – 210 points
- 3 Duff Thury – 11 fish – 133 points
- 4 Jake Heath – 6 fish – 109 points
- 5 Jim Doyle – 9 fish – 107 points

MASTER'S DIVISION

- 1 Tony Sommerfeld – 11 fish – 133 points
- 2 Mark Sewald – 8 fish – 119 points
- 3 Chris Swentkofske – 5 fish – 158 points
- 4 Carol Heath – 4 fish – 55 points
- 5 Brian Hanson – 3 fish – 53 points

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

- May John Newman, Jr. – 49"
Cave Run, Kentucky – May 18
- June Chris Mueller – 52.5"
Lake of the Woods – June 23
- July George Wahl – unofficial – 52"
Lake of the Woods – July 19
- August Phil Groth – unofficial – 48.5"
Vermilion – August 1

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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.

SEPTEMBER 5-7

Frank Schneider Jr. International Muskie Tournament

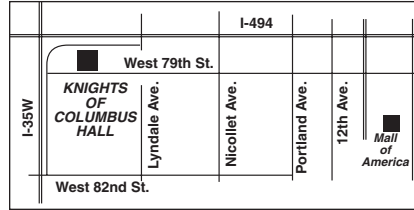
SEPTEMBER 9

General Meeting,
SPEAKER: Frank Burns

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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Jack is editor of Essex Angler magazine. He will discuss fall tips and techniques for boating trophy muskies.

JACK BURNS
SEPT 9
meeting
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**what's
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