



On the Water

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2004

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

ALL ENTRIES for the 2003 Contest were DUE JANUARY 3, 2004! Hopefully, everything has been entered correctly. If you detect a problem with your entries, please contact me immediately.

As we start a new season – for some of us that will be just a few months – remember the required information on your release form:

- 1) The State or Province,
- 2) The Lure type and
- 3) The Name of the Lake or River.

“NO EXCEPTIONS!”

At this time I have no further information on members entering their own release forms into the Lunge Log. Trust me – I will let everyone know when this becomes available.

When you think muskie fishing in November on Mille Lacs, think Brian Hanson. His eight releases include a 43", a 41", a 50" with a 25" girth, two 45"s, a 52" with a 26" girth, a 50" with a 24" girth and a 46". WOW! That's 164 points in one month!

Minnetonka was popular in November – Tom Batina and Tom Becker both released 39" muskies, Jim Doyle released a 38", a 44.5" and a 49.25", and Tony Sommerfeld released a 45" with a 21" girth.

Gary and Richard Wolff spent three days in November on Leech Lake freezing in single digit temperatures but were rewarded for their efforts. Gary released a 43" and a 49.5" with a 25" girth and Richard released a 52" with a 26" girth.

Bob Culbertson released 4 fish on October 18 and 1 on October 25 prior to closing his cabin on Baby Lake. He finished the season with 24 fish – 262 points – and all but 4 from Baby Lake.

This about wraps the members only contest up for another year, except for the big event. The presentation of the plaques to all the winners and graphic reproduction of the longest release of the season will happen at the Winter Picnic on February 21. This is an event you won't want to miss!

Reporting all fish, big and small.

Standings on page 4



John Newman, Jr. released this 2-year-old muskie in White Bear Lake. On November 25 members of the Twin Cities Chapter, along with MN DNR representatives, stocked 42 2-year-old fish in the lake. Original plans were to stock thousands of fingerlings, but the hatchery could not supply them. Funds designated for the fingerlings will be held, and we will stock them next year.

Volunteer For The St. Paul Sports Show

The St. Paul sports show will be Wednesday, January 9 through Sunday, January 11. Our Twin Cities chapter will have a booth at the show and the chapter needs volunteers to help each day during show hours.

Again this year, Brad Coyne will be heading up the show booth for us. Last year Brad was working the night shift and was able to man the booth during the day by himself. This year, Brad is no longer working the night shift and must find volunteers for each day and daytime, weekday hours are always the hardest to fill with volunteers to work at the booth.

Generally, sports show hours are from 10 am to 10 pm. Shifts are approximately from 10 to 4 or 4 to 10. Consider playing hooky from work for a day to meet interesting people and, yes, talk fishing all day. Anyone helping at the booth will get a free exhibitors pass to the show.

Contact Brad at 612-724-6697 to volunteer and see the rest of the show for free!!!

From Our President

At our general meeting on December 12th nominations and elections for members of our chapter Board of Directors and officers were held. I am happy to report that the board has changed very little. The few changes are first of all, Dick Halvorson and Jay Kalsbeck have retired from the board. We all owe each of them a debt of gratitude and thanks for their service. Their presence on the board has been invaluable and they will definitely be missed. Thanks, guys!

Secondly, we are fortunate to have gained three new board members. Two members are veterans of the club and have served on the board in the past. We welcome back Patti Slack and Greg Randolph to the board. Both are experienced and long-time members of the club. The third new member is Bob Junghans. Bob told me that he joined MI because he thought it was a good group and that he wanted to be involved. I believe that Bob will be excellent addition to the board. Bob's business and professional experience will be a definite asset. We can now look at who will be our officers for the coming year.

If you haven't guessed already, I will return as president for one more year. This will be my last year at this position for a number of reasons – one of which is that I believe that the leadership should change from time to time to ensure new dynamics that contribute to change and growth. This year will be a transitioning time from the current leadership to the coming one. Shawn Kellet has committed to stepping up to be president for 2005. So, Shawn and I will work together to help him become familiar with the expectations and duties of the office so that he will be comfortable when his time comes. Of course this is all based on the assumption that no one else will want the job. Shawn also will be serving as 1st vice-president for 2004.

Our 2nd vice-president will be Curt Ellis. Curt has served a number of times at this position and I welcome his return. Steve Hedensten will remain as treasurer a position he has served well for the last several years. Dianne Dahl is beginning her second year on the board and has graciously volunteered to manage the secretary duties for the coming year. Finally George Selcke has committed to another year as Regional VP, our chapter's representative to the International MI organization. George has served us all well in this position and I look forward to good things again this year from George.

I need to correct some information on the fish stocking that took place on Nov. 25th. Last month I wrote that we were going to stock 58 2-year-old fish and 40 fingerlings. The actual count to date is 42 2-year-old fish. That is all the supplier could manage this year. Better luck next year I hope.

The winter picnic will be held on February 21st at the K.C. Hall. Contact Patti Slack for details and tickets.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Make Plans to Attend the Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet

If you didn't attend our chapter's Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet last year, you missed a great time. Last year was the first year we held the Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington and it was FANTASTIC!!!! So mark your calendar now for February 21st, 2004 and reserve your ticket TODAY.

Everyone is invited to enjoy our own "muskie-version" games of Black-Jack, Wheel of Lures and Bingo. The doors at the Knights of Columbus (1114 W 79th Street, Bloomington) will open at 6:00 pm so we can start enjoying the games. A delicious dinner will be served at approximately 7:30 pm, with the awards portion of the evening following the meal. Our chapter's Members Only Contest winners will be honored as well as all the participants in the chapter Kids Only Contest. A highlight of the Awards will be the awarding of the MUSKIE award, an honor conferred upon a most-deserving chapter member, who has consistently and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc.

Cost of the meal will be \$12.00 per person (tickets MUST be purchased BEFORE that evening). You MUST contact Patti Slack before February 10th (952/808-1469) to reserve your meal tickets. The games vary in price from \$1.00 to \$3.00 and those tickets are purchased the night of the event.

Dryberry Tales, 2003

from Juris Ozols

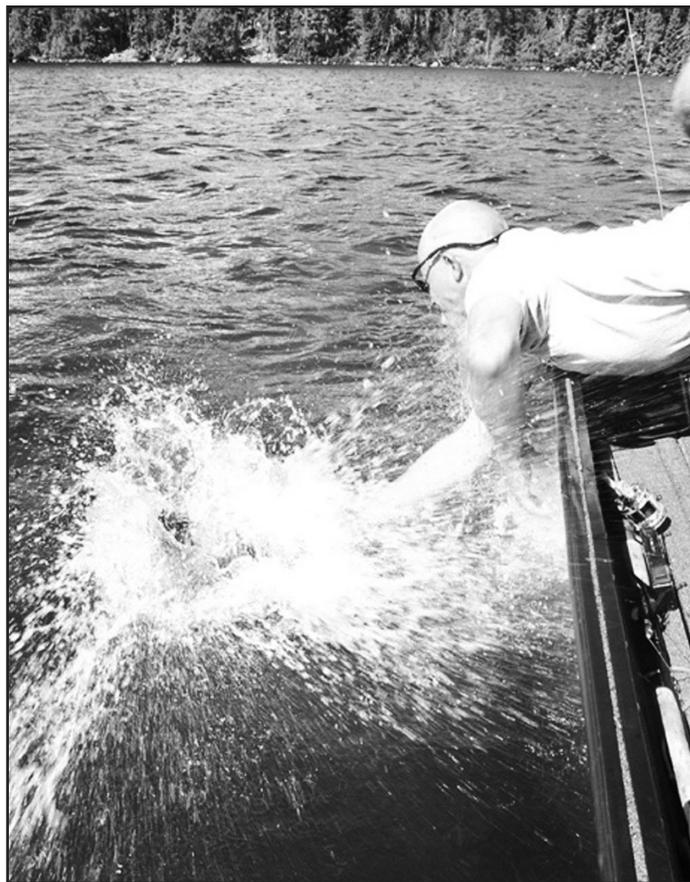
Matt Olson had his fish of a lifetime on for ten or fifteen seconds. He had the fish hooked long enough to yell out "Big fish! Big fish!" He had it on long enough for me to wake up from my own reveries and see a gigantic swirl in the water kicked up by the monstrous side of that fish. I even had time to reach for my digital camera. (Matt later chided me for doing that, rather than reaching for the net.)

But Matt didn't have that wonderful Dryberry fish hooked well enough. Like for ever so many of us, Matt's "Fish of a Lifetime" shook the hook and disappeared into the watery depths.

I'm not sure which of us was more disappointed. Matt, of course, had to go through the obligatory stage of wobbling knees, shaking hands, a dazed look, all that. It took him a long time to recover, at the time, and he'll be talking about that fish for the rest of his life. But we're going back next year, and I'm absolutely certain that Matt will eventually get that Dryberry monster, or one of the other ones that live there.

But how about me? I had the chance to get a spectacular series of photographs, of a gigantic fish being brought in and released. It would have been Muskie Magazine Cover material for sure, and better than that "Boat in the Storm" shot I got last year. When will I get a chance like that again? Even now I can dream about the sequence of shots – fish in the water, fish jumping, Matt straining with a bent pole, the fish at boatside, Matt holding it briefly, releasing it, the fish swimming away. Sigh...

Okay so be it. We continued to fish. And that same afternoon, as we drifted into one of those beautiful bays of Dryberry Lake, I raised a Muskie, managed to fumble my way into a passable Figure 8, and actually brought it in. It went thirty-seven inches. That's probably less than two-thirds the length of Matt's fish.



But hey, I caught a Muskie, the only for me last year, and I'm not going to complain. And also – the Muskie gods work in mysterious ways – I actually got a very nice photo after all.

Matt netted the fish, measured it, and then put it back in the water. And that fish just exploded in a splash! Just as I pressed the shutter button on the camera, it sprayed Matt with water, it sprayed me, and it even knocked Matt's hat off! And I got that shot as you can see (that's Matt's hat flying off to the right of the photograph.)

So that was great, and I'm glad I got the photo op. But you know, if Matt had brought in that other one, well...

Next year.

Kids Only Fishing Contest

The Chapter's Kids Only Fishing Contest ended on December 31. An award will be given at the 2004 Winter Picnic/Awards Night to each and every child who enters. One entry per child should be submitted for the entire fishing season. The contest form must be signed by both child and parent/guardian and sent to Smokey Swenson, 4023 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412 by January 10, 2004.

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Start Planning For Next Season!!!!

Each season the Twin Cities chapter plans a number of muskie fishing trips for chapter members. Details have not been finalized for the upcoming season, but keep in mind the chapter trips planned last year.

The first trip of the season, a boat-in outing to Barker Bay Outposts at the center of the Manitou Lake system in Ontario, was scheduled for the Canadian muskie opening in June.

A July trip to the Winnipeg River, Ontario at Paradise Cove Resort as well as the chapter's annual August trip to Red Wing Lodge in Morson, Ontario were great fun for all who attended. A fall trip to Musky Bay Resort on Crow Lake in Ontario was also on the schedule.

Keep these trips in mind when making your plans for this summer's fishing. Details of all the trips will be in future issues of *On the Water*.

DNR Reviews Spearing Regulations

Recently George Selcke, on behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc, sent a letter to the Director of the Fisheries Division of the MN DNR stating the chapter's position concerning northern pike spearing regulation changes under review by the DNR. Rule changes being considered will be determined by March 2004 and will become permanent at that time.

The chapter is opposed to the DNR recommendation of dropping Dumbbell Lake (Lake County), Cedar Lake (Scott County) and Lake Owasso (Ramsey County) from the lakes with northern pike speaking bans. The chapter would like to see both Cedar and Owasso to be designated muskie lakes.

The chapter also suggested to the DNR that both Lake Vermillion and the Mississippi River be added to "designated waters".

George stated he would have liked to include other groups with the recommendations put forth in the letter. However, the MN Muskie Alliance, a group formed last year to include groups state-wide with interests in muskie fishing and conservation, is still having "growing pains" and has not yet been able to form a group to address this issue.

Members Only Contest Standings (as of 12/16/2003)

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1 Evan Nicolai – 4 fish – 63 points
- 2 Gary Wolff – 3 fish – 56 points
- 3 Shaina Wolff – 1 fish – 13 points
- 4 Samantha Doebler – 1 fish – 12 points
Eleni Wolff – 1 fish – 12 points
- 6 James Hedensten – 1 fish – 8 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Lois Harvey – 6 fish – 96 points
- 2 Terrie DuBe' – 3 fish – 39 points
- 3 Linda Knutson – 2 fish – 36 points
- 4 Elaine Randolph – 2 fish – 23 points
- 5 Pamela Carroll – 2 fish – 15 points
- 6 Dianne Dahl – 1 fish – 12 points
Wendy Hedensten – 1 fish – 12 points
- 8 Liz Sewald – 1 fish – 5 points

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Jeff Melton – 21 fish – 292 points
- 2 Bob Culbertson – 24 fish – 262 points
- 3 Brent Hirsch – 18 fish – 259 points
- 4 Jim Doyle – 17 fish – 226 points
- 5 Matt Olson – 21 fish – 205 points
- 6 Duff Thury – 15 fish – 186 points
- 7 Jake Heath – 9 fish – 148 points
- 8 Kevin Clouse – 10 fish – 135 points
- 9 Bobby Johnson – 9 fish – 117 points
- 10 David Gustafson – 9 fish – 111 points

MASTER'S DIVISION

- 1 Brian Hanson – 20 fish – 375 points
- 2 Mark Sewald – 23 fish – 317 points
- 3 Tony Sommerfeld – 22 fish – 245 points
- 4 Mark Fredrick – 13 fish – 192 points
- 5 Kurt Hostager – 10 fish – 121 points

HYBRID DIVISION – No entries

RELEASE OF THE MONTH – (MINIMUM LENGTH FOR CONTEST IS 45")

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May | John Newman, Jr. – 49" – Cave Run Reservoir – May 18 |
| June | Chris Mueller – 52.5" – Lake of the Woods – June 23 |
| July | George Wahl – 52" – Lake of the Woods – July 19
Richard Wolff – 52" – Mille Lacs – July 31 |
| August | David Nicolai – 55.5" – Leech Lake – August 9 |
| Sept | Patrick Cotter – 53" – Leech Lake – September 20 |
| Oct | Bobby Johnson – 51.33" – Nokomis – October 25 |
| Nov | unofficial – Brian Hanson – 52" – Mille Lacs – Nov. 15
unofficial – Richard Wolff – 52" – Leech Lake – Nov. 8 |



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Members Only Contest

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www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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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.

JANUARY 13
General Meeting.
Speaker: Jack Burns.

FEBRUARY 10
General Meeting.

FEBRUARY 21
Winter Picnic/Awards
Banquet

MARCH 9
General Meeting.

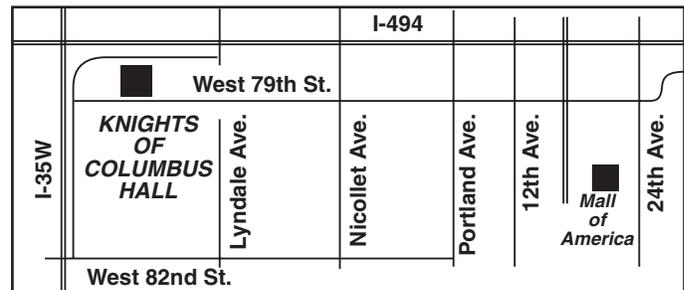
MARCH 12, 13, 14
Minnesota Muskie Expo.
National Sports Center,
Blaine, MN.

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

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.



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next meeting

JANUARY 13
JACK BURNS

Jack Burns is editor of Esox Angler Magazine. He will discuss tips and techniques for boating trophy muskies.