



On the Water

Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2004

A Hymn of Praise to the BMTM

from Juris Ozols

I think I've finally figured out, after some twenty years, why I can't catch muskies. One reason, and one reason only: I've never had an electric Bow Mounted Trolling Motor – a BMTM. I'm sure all my problems arise from that. Let me explain.

As it turns out, I've always used a detachable electric trolling motor that I clamp to the transom of my 17' Blue Fin to push me around while fishing. For the life of me I now can't understand why I've held on for all those years. Using that motor is a colossal pain.

To begin with, I have to clamp it to one side of my gas motor, so it always pushes me at an angle, impossible to steer. I have to stand next to it and constantly diddle with the course. My path across a lake is a random zigzag.

Furthermore, when the wind comes up, as soon as the bow starts swinging around the whole thing gets to be hopeless. The infinitesimal power of the 12 volt system can't begin to handle winds greater than a quarter mile per hour.

Once, on Woman Lake while fishing walleyes, it actually got ugly. I ended up completely circling close by

an anchored boat due to wind and steering flails. The guy started yelling at me. "Whazza matter? Can't you find your own spot?" And a few other choice words about where I should go (although I doubt I would have gotten walleyes where he was directing me).

And then, try to fish milfoil weed lines, a classic muskie spot on city lakes? Total farce. I'll alternately end up either 50 feet on top of the weeds or 100 feet out in the middle of the lake. Totally hopeless. You don't catch muskies. I never did.

Finally, there's an insidious thing

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From Our President

Now that May has finally arrived I would like to remind you of two of our chapter's annual May events that give you the opportunity to give a little something back. The first will be our annual Vets Home Opener held at the Minneapolis Veterans Home by Minnehaha Park. This will start about 8am on Saturday May 8th and usually lasts 'til about 1pm. The second event is the Big Brothers-Big Sisters Kids Outing on Lake Nokomis on May 22nd and usually runs from 10am 'til 3pm.

Terry Hagstrom heads up the Vets Home Opener and, if I remember right, I believe this is Terry's 5th year organizing this event. Terry has always done a great job and I'm looking forward to another enjoyable day. For those of you that don't know about the Vets Home Opener, here is a little info. We set up a portable trout pond on the Vets Home grounds and make trout fishing available to the residents. These guys really get into this pond fishing and it's a riot to watch. Not only do our members help them fish, but we clean fish, cook fish and serve shore lunch to anyone who shows up for this event. The VFWs and

American Legions fund the day financially and we supply the workers. So we need people to help the fishermen, clean the fish, and prepare and serve lunch. Come on down to the Vets Home on the 8th and give a hand. You won't regret it.

Curt Ellis organizes the Kids Outing on Lake Nokomis. Our chapter gives about 12 kids and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters some fishing lessons and lore. We provide the rods, reels and some tackle. By the way, the kids get to keep the equipment we supply. Last year, the kids caught a mixed bag of fish and had a good time. The volunteers that help out with this also enjoyed themselves. Here is yet another opportunity to get involved. I hope enough help shows up so that there can be one volunteer for each kid so they will get some quality attention.

It won't be long now until our favorite season opens. I hope you have a safe and successful season. Maybe I'll see you on the water.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

about clamp-on trolling motors. You really should raise them up, once you turn up the big motor and head out. But it's easy to forget – the thing is in back of you, and you're looking forward.

There are certain indications: a rooster tail of water behind you or somebody in another boat waving and pointing at your stern as you zip along. The final indication is when you stop at your fishing spot, go to lower your trolling motor, and discover that it's still in the water and the shaft is bent in a pretty, parabolic arc. I've done that three times, and I won't go any further as to what happens when those events transpire.

I've struggled for many years with all that. So how did the light finally began to dawn? Well, I started going out with Muskie Cognoscenti such as Mark Sewald and Tom Bastian. And you know what? We'd catch muskies! A new experience for me.

Why did we get those muskies? For a while I had the disturbing suspicion that these guys were just plain smarter and better fishermen than me. Now that's something any man is loath to admit about his friends – the ancient "Warrior Syndrome" – and I resisted

the thought. Well, I've come to admit that it is in fact true, but that's not the main thing.

Here's the real reason: We'd always take their boats. Their boats have a BMTM. That's all you need to catch muskies.

That struck me like a bolt of lightning when Tom took me out a couple of springs ago on Harriet, a bowl lake with a milfoil weedline. We launched Tom's boat, he lowered his BMTM, and we fished all the way around. Tom consistently kept us one cast away from weedline. We raised at least a dozen fish by casting up to the weedline and letting the lures fall down along it. And yes indeed, we caught a muskie! (You might guess who "we" is.)

Mark Sewald took Tom and me out on Minnetonka, his boat, with a BMTM. He drove us around to a bunch of his favorite spots, along weedlines, in and out of pockets, off the tips of points, superb boat control. Again, "we" caught a muskie.

And I could tell you more stories along these lines. But that's enough. You fish with a BMTM, which lets you control the boat with exquisite precision, you catch muskies. Furthermore, I've never seen a boat up on plane with the BMTM down, either. It's right there

in front of your nose, as you start up, and impossible to overlook.

There's no question that the BMTM is one of the indispensable tools of the fishing trade, and perhaps one of the top ten greatest inventions of mankind.

Okay, here's my situation now – last fall I got a BMTM of my own, and Tom put it on my boat for me. I've already fallen in love with it, as I look at it perched jauntily on the bow of my boat. I'm just itching to get it in the water this year, trying it out, steering straight lines, following weedlines, and... Catching muskies! I'll report to you about that later on.

But my old trolling motor? Well, there's the picture. It's in the back of the garage, slowly disappearing under a collection of junk.

On the odd chance that any of you would like it, the thing is for sale. It'll cost you a bottle of beer at the Cardinal after this year's Vet's Home event. However, please be aware that there's a slight bend in the shaft, and you might have to do a bit of straightening...

Raffle Tickets to Benefit Andrew Luchovick Jr. at May Meeting

In the summer of 2003 the president of the MI Three Rivers Chapter, Andrew Luchovick Sr., drowned while fishing with his seven year old son, Andrew Junior. Young Andrew was wearing a life jacket and tried to keep his father's head above water until help could arrive, but was unsuccessful at saving him. Andrew's eulogy appeared in the October 2003 issue of the *MUSKIE* magazine.

Captain Larry Jones has organized the "International Guide Raffle" to benefit Andrew Junior. Winners of this unique raffle will be able to pick a guided trip from about forty available trips. Guides include Howard Wagner (largest MI release of 2003!!), Marc Thorpe (three of the top nine MI 2003 releases caught in his boat!!), Steve Heiting, Spence Petros, Larry Ramsell, Dick Pearson and more than 30 others. Drawing will be made in August for trips to be taken during the 2005 season. Trips are available on many major muskie waters of the US and Canada.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Purchasers of five tickets at Manufacturers Night will get to choose a free muskie lure from a selection available at the raffle ticket table. Together we can make a big difference in one little boy's life.

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www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

On the Water is published
monthly for members of the
Twin Cities Chapter of
Muskie's Inc.

Copy deadline: Second Friday of
each month

Contact: Graphic Works
612-866-4730 • olson@3pete.com

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.

MAY 8

Fishing Home Opener at Minnesota Veterans Home.

MAY 11

Annual Swap Meet/Manufacturers Night.

MAY 22

Kid's Outing at Lake Nokomis.

JUNE 5

Minnesota Muskie Fishing Opens

JUNE 8

General Meeting.

JUNE 13

Capable Partners Outing at Lake Independence.

JULY 10-17

Chapter trip to Winnipeg River, Ontario

JULY 13

"On the Water" General Meeting, Lake Minnetonka

AUGUST 10

Annual Picnic, Minnehaha Falls.

AUGUST 14-18

Chapter trip to Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

SEPTEMBER 10-11-12

37th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. International Fishing Tournament

SEPTEMBER 14

General Meeting.

In Memorium Robert Walt Horley

Those who fish Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, will remember Robert Horley, who passed away this winter at the age of 76.

Robert lived his entire adult life on an island in Whitefish Bay. He made his living as a logger and fishing guide. He opened the Sanctuary Resort when he finished logging. Robert was a good friend to many Muskies Inc. members and muskie fishermen all over the world. He "was a true pioneer conservationist, preserving and restoring the environment from which he derived his living. As a highly respected member of the his community, Robert spoke with integrity and wisdom."

The Sanctuary Resort will continue to operate, but the muskie world has changed. If you're on Lake of the Woods this summer, stop by and say hello!

what's inside

BBTM 1
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next meeting

MAY 11

SWAP MEET/ MANUFACTURERS NIGHT

Joining us will be area manufacturers representing more aspects of muskie fishing than you can imagine. You can buy new toys at unbeatable prices. We're also having a swap meet. Bring your rods, reels, lures, motors, boats to the meeting and be prepared to bargain.



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