



# On the Water

Volume 10, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2007

## Fish-A-Thon Kids Tournament

from Brent Fox, Youth Chair

This year's Captains Tournament was again held on White Bear Lake. Based out of the north side public boat landing, over 40 kids ages 5 to 16 and their families were treated to a fun day with great weather, games, food and fishing. The "Captains" are kids who participated in the Fish-A-Thon last year, and are considered leaders this year. There was a good turnout of about 30 volunteers who guided the participants for this tournament. This is the tournament that produced a 40.5" muskie for a 9 year old boy last year! (See Sept. '06 issue of *On The Water*, in the chapter website.)

Our own John Newman was one of the boat guides who volunteered for this event. He was assigned a young man who really liked to fish for bass. Naturally, he wanted to cast near docks and was flipping a worm rigged "Wacky" style (I believe the hook is placed midsection). Well, of course, someone was bound to catch a muskie this day and he happened to be one of at least two kids that hooked one! Unfortunately, he didn't get it in the boat, but the fact that he hooked and played a fish is usually considered a good day of muskie fishing for anyone!

It's also a testament to the Twin Cities chapter's efforts to make the Twin Cities a quality muskie fishery! It's only fitting that the same John Newman who has implored us to sell raffle tickets for the past few years gets to help a kid to hook into a muskie that VERY LIKELY WAS STOCKED BY US!

**Fish-A-Thon** continued next page



Twelve-year-old Christina Smith from Park Rapids got some help from her sister Julia showing off this 50.5-inch muskie from Big Lake that earned her first place in the chapter's 40th Annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament held September 7, 8, 9 in northern Minnesota. It was the second-biggest fish caught in the tournament – the biggest was 51 inches caught by Dobber Stott. More tournament information and pictures on page 3, 4 and 5.

## Northernmost Chapter Outing Ever

On August 25th, ten members of the chapter journeyed far into Canada for a week of fishing on Longlegged Lake. The group enjoyed more eating than catching. Each night one boat fed the group: pizza by Greg Ide and Tom Kenefick, spaghetti by Al Larson and Jim Kroupa, fiesta dinner by Dave and Linda Knutson, pork chops by Brad Coyne and Troy Zuelke, and a shore lunch by Dale and Greg Ziegenhagen. The shore lunch was rated best by the group. The secret? Crunchy coating of cornflake crumbs and a commercial batter mix.

Most of the group had follows of fish over 50 inches, and had "pet fish" by week's end, but the fish were not cooperative. Largest fish of the outing was a 42 inch northern pike caught by Tom Kenefick. Largest buoy caught was a large jug caught three times by Brad Coyne. Brad needs casting lessons? Brad eventually dragged the buoy into deep water and it sunk. Reefs on the lake were well marked by resort buoys, and that one had to be re-buoyed. The group shared nightly stories of folly and misfortune. Al's trolling motor failing, and then he lost overboard the one borrowed from the camp. Oops.

Special thanks to our hosts at Longlegged Lake Resort, the Woolisons, who provided us with a large new duplex cabin, a half-off rate, and free Ontario fishing licenses. Despite the poor fishing, the group remained muskie hopeful. Several of the group fished Ontario's Eagle Lake on the way home.



The winning northern and one of two muskies caught at the Fish-A-Thon tournament held at White Bear Lake in August. Our chapter helps to sponsor the kids event.

## Fish-A-Thon *continued from page 1*

The other youth that caught a nice muskie (though under the legal size) was possibly holding a fish that was stocked in the last couple years.

These guys are both on their way to an addiction known as Muskie Madness. Next thing you know, they'll be joining Muskies Inc, and maybe becoming regular participants that will keep fishing through their lives. Even better if they can influence their peers and get more kids fishing. As a side note, you should really be inspired to get kids fishing, by seeing the picture of the Smith sisters from the chapter's Frank Schnieder 40th Annual Tournament.

Other kids caught lots of panfish, some bass and even a walleye was brought in. There were seven northern pike caught that day, including one over five pounds. As the Youth Director for our chapter, I gave each of those kids a large bass/pike-size spinnerbait as an incentive to fish for the more "toothy" species.

Our chapter also provided a trophy pike and a trophy muskie (a gift from the Hugh Becker estate, along with the spinnerbaits) to display for the participants. These were set out as examples to help people learn to tell the difference between the two and also inspire awe with their size! I fielded many questions about these fish, even from some adult fishermen who didn't know much about them or our organization. Some fisherman had never heard of Muskies Inc.!

The Fish-A-Thon group has been a good one for us to sponsor with all the events that they do and the exposure we get. I hope that next year we'll see a few more of our members at an event or two. It's well worth our time! To those chapter members that helped – a big "Thank You".

### Lake Vermilion Chapter Outing

NOVEMBER 1-4 • Vermilion Dam Lodge

\$45 per person/night

CONTACT JOE DEMARS – 612-861-8930

to join other chapter members for this outing.

## Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest Chair

**B**ig fish time is HERE! Seventeen fish at 50" or more have been registered as of September 15th. Only 5 more from last month, and one over 55". All but one have been caught casting!

Congratulations to Zachery Weyland for being ranked 9th of all MI juniors (as of 7-28-07) for longest release by a junior with a 47". Also to Cindy Hegdahl for her 2nd place ranking in Women's Masters for release points and her 9th place ranking for longest release with a 49". And Linda Knutson's ranking 7th overall in the Women's division for release points.

The men have also managed to make it into the national rankings with Kris Astrop ranking 4th for longest release with a 54.5" (I have a picture, nice fish) and Adam J. Greengard ranking 14th with a 52.75". I think you could say we know what we are doing!!

If you need to enter a fish or just print up new submission form, you can do so on our chapter web site ([www.twincitesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitesmuskiesinc.org)) under the members only contest icon. It also shows average length caught and longest caught by an individual.

PLEASE enter your fish under the right division. A couple of you have fish in Master's Division too!!

I will have release forms at the meetings.

### JUNIOR'S DIVISION:

1ST: Zachary Weyland - 76 points - 5 fish - longest 47"

2ND: Evan Nicolai - 57 points - 5 fish - longest 41"

3RD: Thomas Batina - 11 points - 1 fish - longest 36.5"

### WOMEN'S DIVISION:

1ST: Lois Harvey - 74 points - 4 fish - longest 52"

2ND: Christine L Rein - 9 points - 1 fish - longest 35"

### WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION:

1ST: Linda Knutson - 68 points - 5 fish - longest 46"

Members Only *continued on page 6*

# 40th Annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament

from Juris Ozols

An interesting experience, a first for me, during the chapter's 40th annual tournament. We were out on Leech Lake Saturday, September 8, the second day of the fishing. And you know what, by mid-afternoon as best we could tell we were apparently the only boat on the lake! Usually there are boats everywhere, tournament hats in great profusion. But here, in the middle of the competition, boats were nowhere to be seen.

Now of course, the visibility was limited to a couple of hundred feet or so. The wind-driven horizontal rain didn't let us see very far over the six-foot waves. Even so, muskie folks are hardy souls and we should have had company. But there we were, seemingly alone on Leech Lake.

Well, not quite. There were at least two other boats fishing. Travis Hultgren was out there somewhere on Leech in the rain and fog. I talked to him after he accepted the first place winner's plaque. His secret in getting the four fish (49, 44.5, 41.5, 41) he caught?

"I fished it hard. I fished from 7 am to 7 pm Friday and Saturday. And 7 to 10 Sunday. I didn't go in, I didn't take breaks. I trolled from spot to spot instead of running around." said Travis. So his lure was in the water continuously, and he got the fish and won the tournament. Travis has fished the tournament every year since 1998 and has entered fish all but one year. His previous best finish was third last year, with a 5th and 7th place finish also to his credit.

Another boat out there on Big Lake had twelve year-old Christina Smith, sister Julia, and brother Steven riding with their father Dan. Christina pulled in a 50.5-incher and her brother got a 41-incher. Look at that great picture of Christina and Julia with the Christina's fish. The raincoats and the rain-spattered windshield show you the conditions that Saturday.

Christina had been throwing jerk baits and bucktails without much success when she decided to switch to a top-water. First cast, and there it was. She brought it in after a 10-minute fight, father Dan netted it, and she's our Junior winner for 2007. And not only that, her fish was the biggest caught by a female in the tournament, so she also was awarded the Mary Vilnow award presented by Paul Vilnow in memory of his wife.

Incidentally, that's quite a fishing family, the Smiths. Although Julia was skunked this time, she owns the family record for "Big Fish" with a 63-inch sturgeon. And Steve won the Junior Division in the tournament last year. We'll certainly hear more from them in coming years.

Speaking of "Big Fish," Dobber Stott got the Big One this year, a 51-incher out of Cass. For that the chapter and Fiber Tech will provide a replica of his prize-winning fish. He also got a very nice shot of the fish, see the collage of the tournament on pages 4 & 5.

Some 600 anglers fished the tournament this year on the usual complement of twenty lakes in the Walker, Cass,

Longville, MN area. A total of 95 fish were registered, including six fish over 50 inches.

The hot spot this year was Big Lake, producing five anglers in the top ten, and the first and third place junior. Leech Lake gave us three of the top ten places including first place, Travis Hultgren and second place, Mark Tietjen. Cass Lake rounded out the top ten with two places including third place winner Jack Shriver, Jr.

Conspicuously missing this year was Lake Bemidji, which has produced many fish during the last few years including a number of 50-inchers. Only one fish came out of Bemidji this year. Not sure why, but you can bet Bemidji will be back – a lot of big fish there. A few lakes that had not produced fish in the recent past, Inguadona, Wabedo and Woman, produced fish this year.

See a complete listing of all the fish caught during the tournament at our website [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org) – click on TOURNAMENT then RESULTS.

And the Grand Prize, a Triton 202 with 115 Suzuki went to Doug Akely from Bemidji. Doug entered one fish, a 48-incher caught on Big Lake, which put him in 25th place. But he was in first (and indeed only) place when Harlan Husky from Triton boats drew his name out of the barrel.

Abu Garcia presented certificates to the three anglers with the three biggest fish caught using Abu Garcia reels during the tournament. Lindy Little Joe awarded a certificate to the angler who caught the biggest using an M/G Buck-A-Boo or other M/G bait.

And, as usual, the Twin Cities Chapter presented a donation of a \$3000 check to Harlan Fierstine of the Minnesota DNR from the proceeds of the tournament. I distinctly remember that ceremony during numerous past tournaments, when Frank Schneider would hand over the check to Harlan and invariably make the comment "It comes right off the top."

Go check out the picture collage one more time. That's Frank in the bottom right-hand corner, still fishing the tournament with us in spirit if not in body.

## Project and Rearing Fund Raffle

The Raffle Committee has begun working on the fundraising raffle our chapter holds each year to earn money that is used for stocking muskies and other projects to improve the muskie fishery.

The committee can use all the help any member is willing to give. If you are interested in being a part of the raffle effort, contact new chair Matt Olson at 612-423-2404. Matt will be working closely with past chair John Newman this year. The committee will be meeting the third Tuesday of the month.

# 40th Annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial



MUSKIE DIVISION			NORTHERN DIVISION		
NAME	LAKE	POINTS	NAME	LAKE	POINTS
1	TRAVIS MATHIAS	LEACH 11,540.00	72	ERIC BISSON	CASS 10
2	MARK FLETCHER	LEACH 10,210.00	54	ERIC BISSON	CASS 10
3	TOMMY SHANKS	LEACH 10,180.00	52	DRUG LYKKE	WISMAN 10
4	BEN LUNDQVIST	LEACH 10,140.00	51		
5	TIM HENRICKS	BIG 10,140.00	48		
6	LEON FLEM	BIG 10,140.00	47		
7	TOSH OPATZ	BIG 10,140.00	47		
8	JEFF FERRARI	BIG 10,140.00	47		
9	BRUCE COOK	BIG 10,140.00	47		
10	RAY BURRIS	CASS 10,140.00	32		
UNOFFICIAL			UNOFFICIAL		
Raffle Tickets \$5,000			Moby Villains Award		
			CHRISTINA SMITH BIG 100.00 24.0		
			RICK FLEM BIG 107.00 31.0		
			BREVEN SMITH BIG 111.00 35.0		
			CHRISTINA SMITH BIG 50.00 24.0		
			LORI WITZELL CASS 50.00 24.0		

# Memorial Muskie Tournament





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**Members Only** *continued from page 2*

**2ND:** Cindy Hegdahl - 42 points - 2 fish - longest 49"

**MEN'S DIVISION:**

**1ST:** Kris Astorp - 542 points - 35 fish - longest 54.5"

**2ND:** John Huss - 250 points - 20 fish - longest 47"

**3RD:** Phil Groth - 223 points - 16 fish - longest 50"

**4TH:** Bryan Walsh - 181 points - 11 fish - longest 50.5"

**5TH:** David J Nicolai - 156 points - 11 fish - longest 44"

**6TH:** John C Newman Jr - 141 points - 11 fish - longest 43"

**7TH:** Tom Batina - 133 points - 10 fish - longest 49"

**8TH:** Robert W Junghans - 132 points - 6 fish - longest 56"

**9TH:** Brent Hirsch - 120 points - 9 fish - longest 46.5"

**10TH:** Kevin K Clouse - 114 points - 7 fish - longest 53"

**MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION:**

**1ST:** Dean A Roll - 242 points - 13 fish - longest 52"

**2ND:** David Gustafson - 160 points - 9 fish - longest 51"

**3RD:** Adam J Greengard - 73 points - 3 fish - longest 52.75"

**4TH:** Brian Hanson - 62 points - 3 fish - longest 51"

**5TH:** Tony Sommerfeld - 55 points - 3 fish - longest 46"

**HYBRID DIVISION:**

**1ST:** Kurt Hostager - 12 points - 1 fish - longest 38"

**2ND:** Kris Astorp - 10 points - 1 fish - longest 36"

**LUNKER OF THE MONTH:**

**MAY** - official - no entry greater than 45"

**JUNE** - official - Brian Hanson - 51" June 29th - Mille Lacs

**JULY** - official - Robert W. Junghans - 56" July 30th - Kaniatarowanenneh, ON

**AUGUST** - unofficial - Dean A. Roll - 52" Aug. 23rd - Mille Lacs

**SEPTEMBER** - unofficial - David Gustafson - 51" Sept. 1st - Minnetonka

See you ON THE WATER...



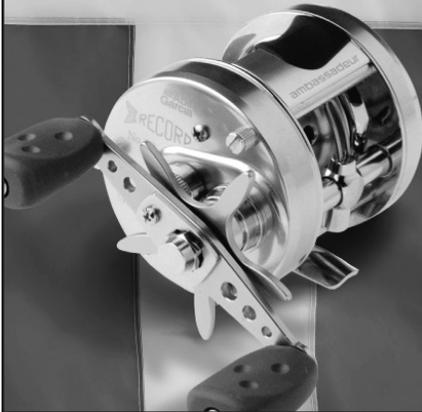
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# next meeting

**OCTOBER 9**

**SPEAKER:  
RICH REINERT**

*Rich is a long-time Wisconsin muskie guide who will share tips and tactics of fall fishing.*

*If you didn't show up to the meeting last month you missed an excellent speaker in Bob Turgeon who spoke about Lake Minnetonka.*

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*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings are held at 7:00 pm the second Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 American Boulevard West, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.).*



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