

On the Water



Volume 14, Issue 6

JUNE 2011

Capable Partners Outing is June 12



Share your love for the pursuit of muskies with a fellow outdoorsman. Join us for an outing with physically challenged members of Capable Partners. We'll be gathering at 6:30 am on Sunday, June 12 at Mound City Park located on County Road 110 on Lake

Minnetonka and fishing until around 1:00 pm. The outing will be held in conjunction with a Military Fishing Event for returning wounded soldiers sponsored by Libby and Tim Hoene. A "shore lunch" will end the day and anyone who wants to continue fishing in the afternoon is welcome to.

Volunteers are needed to take disabled anglers or soldiers out fishing. Some, but not all, of the participants will be in wheel chairs. There are several boats signed up to take the Capable Partners and soldiers out fishing, but we could use more.

Volunteers are also needed to help cook and serve the shore lunch. If anyone has portable folding tables to bring, that is also a help as they are easier for wheel chairs to use that the standard picnic tables with fixed seating. Please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 or Libby Hoene at 763-755-2482 or Tim Hoene at 763-370-3802 to volunteer.

Military Fishing Day June 24

from Youth Co-chair Tom Keith

This will be the third consecutive year that the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. has co-sponsored Military Family Fishing Day with Fishing for Life. It will be on Friday, June 24th, starting from Maynards on Lake Minnetonka. People typically launch out of Gray's Bay after 6:00 a.m. and arrive at Maynards shortly before 7:00 a.m. Volunteers meet up with their military families and then take them out for a morning of fishing. Every one returns about noon for lunch and an awards program. It is a multi-species event, so everyone catches fish. Fishing for Life provides worms for people interested in pursuing panfish.

If you would be willing to be one of the volunteers, who will take military families out fishing that day, please contact me at tomk@usiwireless.com We will need at least 20 volunteers to meet the needs of the families. All kids will be given a complimentary package of lures from the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. We are inviting legislators and if you know of a legislator, who would like



to fish, please contact me. We will have people there who can provide you with good ideas of where you should fish.

Last year, the three boys I took out fishing had parents serving in a war zone. It was a special morning, doing something nice for families that truly serve our country. If you cannot volunteer that day, but would like to donate some lures to the kids or if you have any questions, please contact me at tomk@usiwireless.com.

2011 Chapter Fishing League First Outing is June 11

The first outing of the chapter fishing league will be on Forrest Lake June 11. Note that this is the same day as the Metro Muskie Tournament. Join us for the chapter league and register for the tournament. The fish you catch will earn you honors in both events.

Jody Dahms is again organizing the chapter fishing league this year. Outings for the league are scheduled on many metro-area waters. Everyone is welcome to join the league outings. The league is intended as a fun outing with other chapter members. For those of you that don't have a fishing partner, we will find space in a boat for you to take part in the event. Just contact Jody and let him know.

Scheduled league outings are included in the calendar on page 4. Cancellations of the outings may occur due to weather conditions or if lake water temps reach 80 degrees.

Rules for the league are pretty simple.

1. This is an individual league with as many people in a boat as desired.
2. All participants shall meet at the designated boat launch on the lake at time listed for the league event. If you are going to be late, please contact Jody to let him know that you will be participating.
3. Anglers may not use any live bait.
4. All catches shall be verified by another league member for fish to count.

5. A digital camera shall be used to take photo of fish to provide proof of catch to other league members.

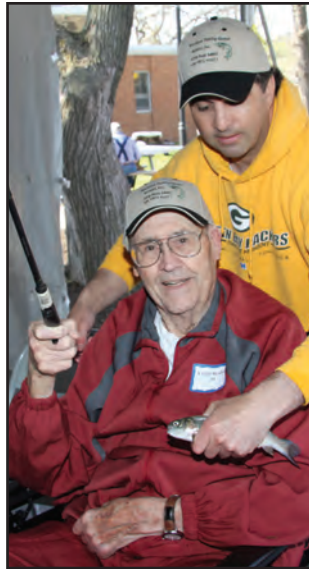
6. League members can fish in as many of the events as they want. Scoring is the same as the

Member's Only Contest: 4 points for a 30" muskie and 1 point for each inch over 30". Participants will receive 5 points per event fished (weekend event counts 5 points per day), 3 bonus points will be awarded to each boat partner of a successful catch during league fishing.

If you need more information contact Jody Dahms at 952-356-6047 or jdahms@aquali.com.

Come fish in a league outing and join in the fun!

Minnesota Veteran's Home Fishing Opener



Fishing Report

Note: The following article, by Gary Stay, was published in the September 17 Longville paper. It gives us all something to ponder as we begin this year's fishing season.

The 43rd Annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament was held on 21 area waters over the weekend of Sept. 10, 11 & 12. This event always makes me happy twice, first is the opportunity to do some real serious musky fishing with a chance of winning a new boat, motor and trailer for landing a muskie 40" long or greater. The second happens when it is over on Sunday because I'm pretty much wiped out. If you've never participated in the three day event you might not have a full grasp of the endurance test that it is and if you've never went musky fishing at all you really have no idea.

I crunched some numbers and the reason for an exhaustive state of being became quite obvious. Now bear in mind that the results of my "unscientific analysis" are just that, my unscientific analysis. However, when I sat and pondered just what went into the weekend I've arrived at some quite startling conclusions, your results may vary (token disclaimer).

Let's begin this journey with placing a number on how long I actually fished. There are a total of 28 tournament hours to potentially fish. When you subtract time for moving from spot to spot, changing baits, having a bite to eat, maybe changing lakes, etc. etc... I deduced that I fished for 24 hours. For the sake of simplicity let's assume that I made one cast per minute. This assumption may be a bit high or low but it's in the ballpark. Speaking of ballpark, GO TWINS! Now for me an average cast is about 100' in length depending on the bait being thrown and other factors. When you multiply 24 hours x 60 casts per hour x 100' per cast you arrive at a total of 144,000' of line retrieved. Now that is an impressive total until you divide it by 5,280 which is the number of feet in a mile and it puts this in a perspective that we can better get a grasp of. In the course of 24 hours of fishing I threw and retrieved my bait just a touch over 27¼ miles! Let's not forget to factor in that it was quite rough on the lakes all three days, double bladed bucktails, jerkbaits and bulldogs are no easy task to use and it rained all afternoon Friday. No wonder I'm tired.

Now when you take this roughly estimated distance of 27¼ miles and factor in the 507 contestants participating the results are indeed scary. Granted not everyone puts in the same amount of time fishing during the tournament but humor me on this one. 507 x 27¼ gives us an astonishing total of 13, 815¾ miles of casting anticipation. Consider the fact that the earth's circumference at the equator is 24,900 miles and you'll see that by all reasonable estimations, with the probability that 13,815 is a bit strong, musky anglers darn near threw half way around the world!

With all this distance fished you'd think that there were tons of fish caught. Well this year was some pretty tough conditions and the catching reflected this. A lower than average total of 77 muskies 40" or greater were landed by 64 anglers. 54 anglers landed a single musky, nine people caught two and the winner of the tournament, Kirk Wilberg

from Bagley MN, landed three from Lake Bemidji. Kirk had the weekend of his life in landing a 54", 53" and a 45½". He also beat some high odds when you figure how many miles an angler had to retrieve a bait using the "unscientific" results we've arrived at.

When you divide the 13,815 miles of casting by the 77 fish caught it brings us to an average of 179.4 miles of retrieved lure per fish. Multiplying 179.4 x the 5280 feet per mile and then dividing that by the average distance of 100' per cast brings us to an average of 9473 casts per 40" or greater musky landed. I'm actually surprised to see from these results that the mighty musky really is the "fish of 10,000 casts". There were obviously more than 77 muskies caught because the under 40"ers are not recorded. If I had to guess I'd say that this year there were quite a few more under 40"ers caught as over 40", but we'll never know how many. Even if you figure in an estimated number of 100 fish under 40" caught this still places the casts-per-fish ratio at 4,121. Making one cast per minute you'll have to invest over 68½ hours of constant casting to land a musky of any size.

These numbers reflect the results of musky anglers who, for the most part, know what they're doing. Sure there were some that have limited experience on the hunt for a musky but for the vast majority of the combatants this is not their first rodeo. And the waters fished are some of the best musky waters in possibly the best musky state to fish in.

So by now the ultimate question should be forming in your mind which is, "Why on earth would a sane person do such a thing?" First off, who ever said that serious musky anglers had all their wits about them anyway? You want proof of this? Just ask any of them if there is anything that they'd rather be doing on a September weekend than throwing in the neighborhood of 1400 casts to a fish that it takes three times that many before it decides to eat your offering. Did I hear someone just whisper something to the effect of "toys in the attic?"

Actually what I believe drives this type of extreme angler is the possibility of having a weekend like Kirk Wilberg had. One where it seems everything turns to gold for you and the big fish just can't refuse your bait. It's the anticipation of coming up to a spot where on a recent outing a huge fish followed your lure to the boat only to give you the cold shoulder and disappear to the depths. It's the second chance you desire with the big one that was hooked and lost. It's wanting to be there when the fish go on a feeding frenzy and on every spot you fish you're having follows, getting strikes or landing fish.

It's as a very insightful man from a bygone era once put it. I don't know if he ever caught or even fished for muskies but he knew what propels them to endure what it takes to be successful and it goes as follows,

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive, but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

SIR JOHN BUCHAN (1875-1940)

p.s. I think that in the future I'm going to work on the art of trolling.

calendar of events

JUNE

- 6 Minnesota Muskie Opener
- 11 Fishing League: Forest Lake, 6-11 am
- 11 Metro Muskie Tournament
- 12 Capable Partners/Military Event Outing
- 14 General Meeting
- 24 Military Family Fishing Outing
- 29 Fishing League: Lake Independence, 6-10 pm

JULY

- 12 General Meeting/Fishing League: Mississippi River Pool 2 Hidden Falls Landing, 6-10 pm
- 16-23 Winnipeg River Outing: Contact Eric Bakke (bakke193@umn.edu, 612-202-7169)
- 25 Fishing League: Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing, 6-10 pm

AUGUST

- 9 Annual Picnic
- 13-20 Red Wing Lodge, LOW Outing: Contact John van Ingen (maxjo@mac.com, 651-699-5172) or Pat Miller (donnagmiller@comcast.net, 651-429-1629)
- 18 Fishing League: Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing, 6-10 pm
- 23-26 Chapter Challenge, Red Wing Lodge, LOW

SEPTEMBER

- 9-11 Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament
- 13 General Meeting
- 14 Fishing League: Lake Waconia, 6-10 pm
- 24 George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament

Members Only Contest

The Minnesota muskie season will start in a few days. Enter your releases in the Members Only Contest as soon as you can. All entries older than 30 DAYS from the day the fish was caught will not count.

You can enter them yourself at the Muskies Inc. web site, www.muskiesinc.org. Use "Fish Submission." You can download blank forms at the Muskies Inc. website or from our chapter web site www.twincitesmuskiesinc.org under the members only contest icon. Mail your printed forms to Members Only Chair Eric Bakke, 290H BFAB; 516 15th Ave SE; Minneapolis, MN 55455. Or give them to him at a meeting. Please try to fill out all of the information on the form to the best of your ability. Contact Eric at 612-202-7169 or bakke193@umn.edu.

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

Copy deadline: 15th of each
month

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

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Please make an effort to support our sponsors so they have an incentive to keep on supporting us. Without them this chapter could not do what it does for the resource and its members.

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next meeting

JUNE 14

**SPEAKER:
KEVIN COCHRAN**

Kevin Cochran guides on many of the lakes of our Frank Schneider Jr. Tournament, including Bemidji, Cass, Andrusia, Wolf, Big and Plantagenet (which will be added to the tournament this year); and also guides on Elk, Mantrap and Little Wolf. As co-chair of the Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance, Kevin endures personal attacks as he works tirelessly as an advocate for protection of our great fishery.



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