

# On the Water



Volume 15, Issue 4

APRIL 2012

## Fishing Opener at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home

Residents of the Minneapolis Veteran's Home will be treated to the 23rd Annual Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 5. Our chapter annually co-sponsors this event with several VFW, American Legion, or AmVets Posts. A trout pond will be set up at the site and stocked with trout. Our volunteers help the residents from the Vet's Home catch the fish, clean them, and prepare and serve a "shore lunch" to the veterans. The shore lunch of fresh-caught trout, fried potatoes and beans brings these veterans back to a time when they did this for their families.

This year will include a recognition ceremony starting about 8:45 am for Twin Cities Muskies Inc. chapter member, the late Helen Ness. Helen was a nurse in World War II and served in Europe as a Lt. Colonel. That was a very high rank, as the highest ranking women were Colonels back then. She returned to Minnesota and served at the VA Hospital for nearly 30 years. During that time she became the fishing partner of Hugh C. Becker, who also worked at the V.A. Both were members of our chapter. Helen spent the last year of her life as a resident at the Veteran's Home. Our chapter is presenting a plaque and a 53-inch muskie Helen caught to the Veteran's Home to recognize Helen and her accomplishments for veterans. Our chapter will also be recognized for 23 consecutive years of service to the veterans of our country.

Everyone who can should take some time Saturday morning and help out. You'll be glad you did. If you don't attend any other chapter event, this one is well worth it. It's extremely rewarding to see our veterans who may never get the chance any other time during the year to come out and get some fishing in. Many of the residents are lined up waiting bright and early in the morning.

Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing, cooking, cleaning fish and generally making this a fun event. This is one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country and has been recognized as such.

Volunteers – and many are needed – should be at the Veterans Home (by Minnehaha Falls) around 7 am. If you can bring 10 pounds of boiled potatoes with you, please contact Troy Zuelzke at [tzuelzke@yahoo.com](mailto:tzuelzke@yahoo.com) and let him know you can help in that way. Otherwise, he will be boiling potatoes galore the night before.



*Catching a fish can make such a big smile. Join us at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home on Saturday, May 5. Help residents catch a trout, or help cooking and serving the "shore lunch".*

## Don't Miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo

George's Minnesota Muskie Expo is scheduled for April 13, 14 & 15 at Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University in St. Paul. The Expo was founded 17 years ago by George Wahl, inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail. The three-day event is dedicated to muskies and muskie fishing – featuring some of the world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great sale prices, as well as guides and resorts.

The unique aspect of the Expo is being able to buy direct from lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. Again this year, if you bring an Abu Garcia or Shimano reel, company reps will be available to help clean or repair one reel per person.

Fish-A-Thon will sponsor a large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids. At George's Tackle Box kids can make their own lures and take home \$30 worth of baits.

Seminars feature Bob Mehsikomer, Gregg Thomas, Luke Ronnestrand, Bob Benson, Dustin Carlson, Steve Heiting, Rich Reinert, Eric Jacobson, Larry Dahlberg, Don Pursch, Wayne Klemz and Tom Wehler.

The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, from 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adult entry for the Expo is \$10, a three-day pass is \$17. Expo information can be found online at: [minnesotamuskieexpo.com](http://minnesotamuskieexpo.com).

## *From Our President*

*A committee of Vince Trotta, Juris Ozols, Patty Slack, Elaine Randolph, Greg Randolph, and Tom Keith are going through about 40 boxes of Muskies Inc. stuff dating back to its inception in 1968. As a group, we are making decisions about what needs to be saved for the International and our Chapter. We want to save the good stuff and then pass it to the next generation of Muskies Inc.*

*A number of events coming up in the next few months will need volunteers from our chapter. On Saturday, May 5 we will hold a "fishing opener" at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home. Volunteers are needed to help the residents catch the trout, clean fish, cook and serve the shore lunch. Our chapter will host a number of physically challenged anglers from the Capable Partners organization on Sunday, June 10. This is being held at Lake Minnetonka in conjunction with an event hosted by Libby and Tim Hoene for returning military personnel. We will need volunteers to take the attendees out for a morning of muskie fishing. The Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration is going to be Friday, June 22. We need volunteers from our chapter to guide military kids and families on a morning of fishing on Lake Minnetonka. We will put together packages of lures and supplies for about 50 military kids. If you have any muskie or bass lures that you would be willing to donate to these kids or you would be willing to guide that morning, please contact me.*

*By the time you read this, our annual Sportsman's Banquet will have been held. Our Banquet Committee does a great job. I would like to personally thank Joe Mellott and Jody Dahms for their outstanding vision and leadership with the banquet. They have said that this is their last year and we want to maintain this great event. When you see them, please thank them for their efforts. If you have wondered about getting involved, please contact me and we can talk about this unique leadership opportunity.*

*This will be the third year for the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament. If you know of a high school aged student, who fishes muskies, ask them if they are fishing the tournament. If they say no, ask them why not. If they and their parents need more information, have them contact me.*

*The individual member is the key to our Chapter. I urge you to do one more thing than last year. This could be as simple as taking a new person out fishing or getting a friend to sign up for MI membership. Remember that it's you who makes the difference. If you have any thoughts, please contact me at tomk@usiwireless.com.*

*Set a goal for yourself to explain the value of CPR to others this year. This is probably the most critical element in preserving muskie fishing into the future.*

*Tom Keith*



**A member of the Capable Partners organization enjoying the early-morning hour at last year's outing with our chapter.**

## **Outing with Capable Partners is June 10**

**A**n outing with physically challenged members of the Capable Partners organization is planned for Sunday, June 10 from 6:30 am to "shore lunch" time on Lake Minnetonka. Share your love for the pursuit of muskies with a fellow outdoorsman. The outing will be held in conjunction with a Military Fishing Event sponsored by Libby and Tim Hoene. Volunteers are needed to take guests out for a morning of fishing. About one-half of participants will need space for wheelchairs, but any size boat can be matched with one of the Capable Partners. You don't have to have a boat to join in. A "shore lunch" will end the event and help is needed for that as well. And if you show up, someone with a boat might invite you to continue fishing in the afternoon. Please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 or Libby Hoene at 763-755-2482 or Tim Hoene at 763-370-3802 to volunteer.

## Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration

On Friday, June 22nd the Twin Cities Chapter will collaborate with Fishing for Life in the 4th annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration. Approximately 50 military kids and 20 adults with connections to the military will be taken out for a morning of fishing on Lake Minnetonka. We are looking for volunteers from the chapter to guide, get people on fish (any species), and safely bring everyone back to Maynards dock.

The day starts about 7:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Shortly after that, we head out to the lake for a morning of fishing. Everyone comes in about 11:00 a.m. and while the fish are weighed, everyone will be treated to a great meal from Maynards. There is an awards program and people are done by noon.

We provide worms and larva if you want to fish for panfish in your boat. We do need people to guide these families. If you guided last year, you will be contacted by Fishing for Life, our co-sponsor. If you did not guide last year, but would like to try this year, please contact Tom Keith at tomk@usiwireless.com.

Last year all kids were given a complimentary pack of five lures, two bobbers, and two boxes of hooks. These were either donated by members of our chapter or purchased with money donated by members of our chapter. If you would be willing to donate something, please contact Tom Keith.

Tom says, "As a veteran, it is important for me to give back. These families miss their loved ones and we can create a memorable experience for them. Thanks for your willingness to help with this project!"



*Happy winner at the 2011 Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration showing off his plaque. Awards are given in many categories and each child participant received a "goody bag".*



**GEORGE'S TACKLE SHOP**, located in the Minnesota Muskie Expo, is a place where kids will be able to create their own muskie lure and take it home with them. Linda, Dave and Jeremy Knutson have manned this for the past few Expos. It's a busy place and they cannot do it alone. If you would be willing to help the kids put together their lures (all instruction provided to you), please contact Dave Knutson at 651-455-9755 or 651-328-4622 or call Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144.

## Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame

Last month after Denise Olson was selected to the Hall of Fame, several people talked to President Tom Keith and asked why our chapter had no formal process to nominate members. As a result, he is organizing two things:

1. Solicitation of membership for nominations – So, if you think someone should be nominated for 2013, please send Tom an email at tomk@usiwireless.com with the person's name and why they should be nominated. The criteria are listed below.
2. Solicitation of members to serve on the nomination committee – If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, please send Tom an email. We will have one meeting in the Fall to nominate a candidate.

Nominees for the Hall of Fame must have shown an exceptional body of work done in more than one of the following areas:

- Promotes quality muskie fishing.
- Practices conservation; is law abiding; promotes catch and release; and uses resources wisely.
- Participates in Muskie research.
- Involved in hatchery and rearing activities.
- Supports pollution abatement.
- Does record keeping in support MI Activities.
- Disseminates information.
- Promotes good fellowship.
- Is a strong leader at the chapter or international level.

## calendar of events

Chapter Fishing League dates announced next month

### APRIL

- 10 General Meeting, Speaker: Ty Sennett  
13-15 George's Minnesota Muskie Expo, Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University

### MAY

- 5 Fishing Opener at the Minnesota Veteran's Home  
8 General Meeting, Speaker: Josh Borovsky

### JUNE

- 2 Minnesota Muskie Opener  
9 Metro Muskie Tournament  
10 Capable Partners Outing/  
Lucky Libby Event  
12 General Meeting, Speaker: Gregg Thomas  
22 Military Family Fishing Outing

### JULY

- 10 General Meeting  
14-21 Winnipeg River Outing

### AUGUST

- 11-18 Red Wing Lodge, LOW Outing  
14 Annual Picnic  
25-9/1 Chapter Challenge, Red Wing Lodge, LOW

### SEPTEMBER

- 7-9 Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament  
11 General Meeting  
29 George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament

## Summer Outings

Join in some muskie fishing fun with other Muskies Inc. members this summer.

### PARADISE COVE, MINAKI, ONTARIO July 14-21

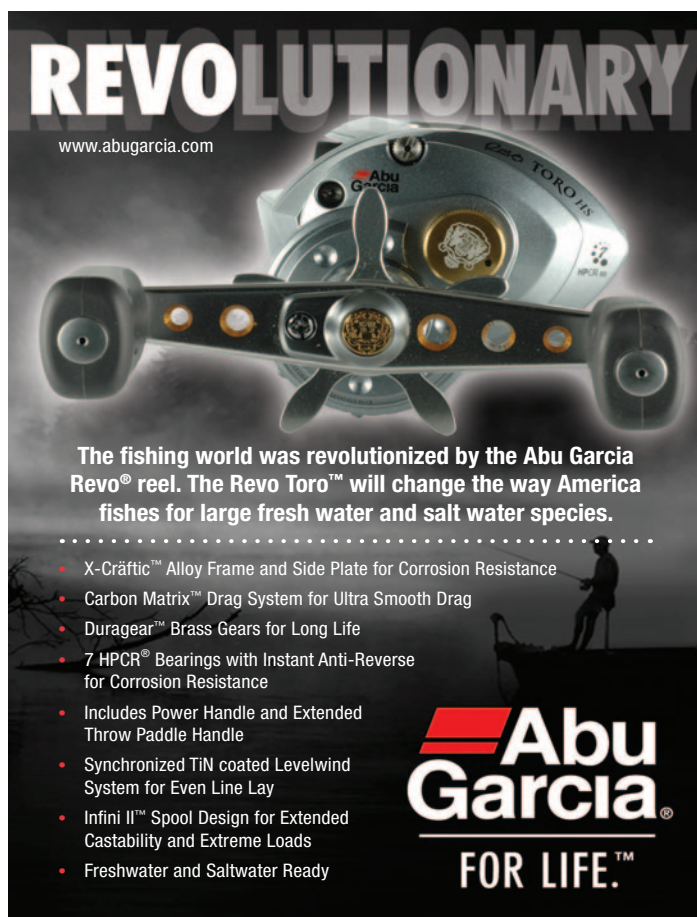
Paradise Cove offers: guide service, free boat launch, free dock facilities, a restaurant and lounge, and Hot Spot depth maps. Check out [www.paradisecoveminaki.com](http://www.paradisecoveminaki.com) for more details. Eric Bakke ([bakke193@umn.edu](mailto:bakke193@umn.edu), 612-202-7169) is taking reservations or can answer any questions you may have. Lodging is \$297.50 for the week. A \$50 deposit to Eric is required. A number of people who have gone on this trip before have signed up again so get your deposit in if you would like to secure a spot. For Eric the average trip cost including gas and food over the last 5 years has been about \$600.

### RED WING LODGE, LAKE OF THE WOODS August 11-18

The Bartlett family at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay has hosted Muskies Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service. They understand what muskie people need and like.

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins is \$300 (US Funds) for 2012, which breaks down to just \$42.85 per day for Canadian muskie fishing. The trip includes: daily bag of ice, free dockage, free boat launch, free dinner one night courtesy of the Bartlett family, one free trip given away in a drawing and door prizes.

Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to 'North Metro Muskie Inc.' Contact John van Ingen ([maxjo@mac.com](mailto:maxjo@mac.com), 651-699-5172) or Pat Miller ([donnagmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donnagmiller@comcast.net), 651-429-1629).



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Tom Keith  
612-925-1109  
tomk@usewireless.com

#### First Vice President

Eric Bakke  
612-202-7169

#### Second Vice President

Shawn Kellett  
952-380-1218

#### Treasurer

Dianne Dahl  
651-699-9817

#### Secretary

Jim Doyle  
952-920-9818

#### Regional Vice President

Eric Schultz  
651-917-8272

#### Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke  
612-202-7169

#### Tournament Director

Denise Olson  
612-866-4730

#### Webmaster

Mike McGrath  
612-743-9188

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Brad Coyne  
763-412-6697

Corey DeZeeuw  
612-867-7952

Greg Ide  
612-331-5034

Peter Janik  
952-649-9576

Jim Kroupa  
952-474-5967

Lowell Kruger  
612-644-8994

Doug Malsom  
612-759-3407

Stu McIntosh  
651-699-9817

John Newman  
651-699-8676

Troy Zuelzke  
952-955-3890

[www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)

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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.*

*If you're looking for a new bait, remember that manufacturers of some of the most productive baits ever designed are among our sponsors. And remember to buy them from sponsoring retailers. If you're looking for a muskie trip, keep the sponsoring resorts in mind.*

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next  
meeting

APRIL 10

SPEAKER:  
TY SENNETT

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