

On the Water



Volume 15, Issue 3

MARCH 2012

Denise Olson Selected to Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame for Muskies Inc. is adding two new members this year. Denise Olson from the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc was selected by the International Selection Committee and inducted into the Hall at the chapter's General Meeting on February 14, 2012. Denise joins 58 others inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1991. She is recognized for making major contributions to the growth of the organization and realizing the objectives established by founder Gil Hamm. Denise has established an exceptional body of work in Muskies Inc and our chapter.



Denise Olson (center) was inducted into the Muskies Inc Hall of Fame at our February meeting. President Tom Keith (second from left) presented her with the same plaque that has been given to Hall of Fame honorees since the award has been given. With her are other chapter Hall of Famers, George Selcke (far left), Jeri Glander and Juris Ozols (far right).

Denise's nomination to the Hall of Fame was made by Paul Hartman. In his nomination letter, he says, "Denise ...has compiled the information for the Chapter's monthly newsletter, laid it out, and sold advertising space for nearly 15 years." She has been instrumental in our Chapter's tournaments for 20 years and has been the Tournament Director of the Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament for the past three years. "...When our friend, George Wahl passed away in the fall of 2008, she volunteered to put together a memorial tournament in his name on the metro-area lakes." Those efforts have saved and raised significant amounts of money that the chapter has been able to put back in the muskie fishery.

For the induction, Vince Trotta read the selection criteria and listed the members of Chapter #1, who have been previously inducted into the Hall of Fame. Previous inductees: George Selcke, Jeri Glander, and Juris Ozols were introduced and called to the stage. The planning committee had kept the secret and Denise was surprised when her name was called and she was presented with the Hall of Fame plaque. Friends, Patti Slack and Elaine Randolph, on behalf

of the chapter presented Denise with a dozen roses and a cake complete with a picture of Denise holding a giant muskie. Paul Hartman talked about his relationship with Denise and her family. Then Denise said thank you and went back to selling tickets to the banquet.

Denise Olson is a wonderful person who has made an extraordinary, ongoing commitment to Muskies Inc. People like Denise have solidified Muskie Inc's place as a preeminent conservation organization on the national stage.

Hugh C. Becker Foundation 2012 Grants Announced

The Hugh C. Becker Foundation was established after Hugh Becker, one of our club's first members, passed away in 2007. The trust and foundation is administered by a 5-person committee whose responsibility it is to evaluate and to determine what projects will be awarded Hugh C. Becker Foundation grants each year.

According to Hugh's wishes, grant money available each year can be used for: projects or activities that will aid in muskie propagation, stocking (either raised or purchased) fingerlings for public use in designated waters, habitat protection and improvement, research by qualified personnel, or expansion of the current muskie range with special consideration given to the Missouri river system in North and South Dakota.

This year's recipients of Hugh C. Becker Foundation grants are listed on page 5.

From Our President

We had a terrific time at the February General Meeting. Eric Bakke did an excellent job with the planning and organization. Thanks to all who came. It was one of our best-attended meetings. The evening started off with our Winter Picnic, people really liked that we re-established that event. At the end of a short business meeting, we had Vince Trotta come up and talk about the Hall of Fame for Muskies Inc. and listed members of Chapter #1, who have received this honor. See the front page for the rest of the story.

During the second half of the meeting, Eric awarded plaques to the winners of the Members Only Contest. There were lots of stories about fish and fishing and most of them were true. After listening to a number of stories about people's experiences this past year, the current holder of the "Muskie Tale" Award presented it to Tim Hoene for this year. Tim will get to award it to someone else next year, but watch out, as this is one award you may not want to get.

March and April are the season of the shows. I hope you can attend and get ready for summer 2012. But, before you do that, please remember that our Muskie Banquet is March 31st at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. The Banquet Committee does an incredible job of making it a very special event for our Chapter. Please get your tickets early and take that pressure off of the committee. The revenue from this event allows us to be able to do some amazing things to help the muskie fishery.

As you think about our Chapter, what can we do to expand opportunities for current members and involve new members? If you have any thoughts, please let contact me at tomk@usiwireless.com. The last meeting showed the quality of spirit and camaraderie of our chapter. We will keep working hard for this exceptional Chapter.

Tom Keith

Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet

The Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet, our chapter's winter fundraising event, will be held Saturday, March 31 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. Last year's banquet, with over \$20,000 in prizes, resulted in record profits that will be used to help us achieve our stocking and rearing goals. Prizes this year include resort stays on premier muskie lakes, fishing trips with renowned muskie guides, guns, St. Croix rods, Shimano reels, Just Encase tackle boxes, Gary's custom rods, Frank's custom rods, custom painted one-of-a-kind lures, H30 sunglasses, plus loads of tackle, storage and other outdoor gear. This year we will continue the themed raffle tables format with each table valued at more than \$1,000 each, plus cash raffles, games and the "mystery" raffle.


Early-bird dinner and raffle ticket packages that will save you up to \$70 are available again this year. If you purchase a package before March 10, you will qualify for a drawing for St. Croix Legend muskie rod and a Shimano Calcutta reel. If you miss the March 10 early-bird deadline for the drawings, you can still order a package prior to the event and save.

Seating is limited to the first 200 who purchase tickets and they will go fast, so get your orders in as soon as possible. The banquet facility requires us to pre-order food so reservations must be purchased prior to the event.

You may purchase your tickets using the order form on page 7 and mail in your reservations. Purchase on-line with a credit card or PayPal at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. Or you can print an order form from the website and mail in your payment. Dinner reservations and packages will be available for sale at the March meeting.

The banquet committee will need volunteers to help man one of the many prize tables. Please send an email to banquet@twincitiesmuskiesinc.org or contact Joe Mellott, Troy Zuelzke or Jody Dahms.

And don't forget to invite your friends. This is a fun night out whether a person is "into" muskie fishing or not.



Minnesota Valley Country Club
6300 Auto Club Road
Bloomington, MN 55438

FROM THE NORTH (Highway 100) Take Hwy. 100 South past Hwy. 494. As Hwy. 100 changes to Normandale Blvd., continue South past Old Shakopee Road. Normandale now changes to Auto Club Road. Proceed South for another 2 miles and the club will be on the right hand side of Auto Club Road.

FROM THE SOUTH/WEST (Highway 169) Take 169 North and exit right on Old Shakopee Road. Take a right at the 1st light (Bloomington Ferry) to the 3-way intersection. Continue straight and the road turns into Auto Club Road and continue for approx. 2 miles. The club will be on the left side of Auto Club Road.

FROM THE EAST (Highway 35W) Go west off of the 98th Street exit and proceed until first light. Veer to the left and enter onto Old Shakopee Road. Take a left at the Normandale intersection and proceed for another 2 miles and the club will be on the right hand side of Auto Club Road.

FROM THE NORTH/WEST (Highway 169) Take Hwy. 169 South and exit left on Old Shakopee Road. Take a right at the 1st light (Bloomington Ferry) to the 3-way intersection. Continue straight and the road turns into Auto Club Road. Continue for approx. 2 miles. The club will be on the left side of Auto Club Road.

Don't Miss Upcoming Chapter Events

Mark your calendars now for Twin Cities chapter events scheduled for this spring and summer. Our Chapter looks for your involvement as we organize social/fishing events for our members and our service events to help others.

VETERAN'S HOME FISHING OPENER May 5

Residents of the Minnesota Veterans Home will be treated to a day of fishing and a fresh cooked "shore lunch". A trout pond is erected at the home and residents can come out and try their luck catching lunch. The fish are cleaned and cooked and served to all who participate. If you haven't ever been to the "fishing opener" at the Vet's Home, you've really been missing out. Volunteer to help the residents get their fish or to serve the shore lunch.

SUMMER FISHING LEAGUE

Come out and enjoy fishing metro lakes with fellow chapter members. Outings for the league are scheduled from June through October. The league is intended as a fun outing with other chapter members. Everyone is welcome to join the league outings. 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.

CAPABLE PARTNERS OUTING June 11

Share your love for the pursuit of muskies with a fellow outdoorsman. Join fellow chapter members for an outing on Lake Minnetonka with physically challenged members of Capable Partners. The outing will be held in conjunction with a Military Fishing Event for returning wounded soldiers sponsored by Libby and Tim Hoene. Volunteers are needed to take the Capable Partners and military out on the lake. A "shore lunch" will end the day and anyone who wants to continue fishing in the afternoon is welcome to.

ARMED FORCES FAMILY FISHING CELEBRATION June 22

The Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration is a collaboration with Fishing for Life. Approximately 50 military kids and 20 adults with connections to the military enjoy a morning of fishing on Lake Minnetonka. Volunteers from the chapter are needed to guide, get people on fish, and safely bring everyone back to the dock at Maynards.

GIL HAMM CHAPTER CHALLENGE August 25-September 1

Represent our chapter at the Chapter Challenge headquartered at Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods. Teams from MI chapters nationwide will gather for the Challenge. Cabins are reserved for the entire week. Contact John Olson 612-751-5715 or 612-866-5369 if you'd like to be part of the team.

FRANK SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT September 7, 8 9

The 45th annual tournament will be on your choice of over 20 lakes in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Leech-Longville area of northern Minnesota. The grand prize, awarded by a drawing of every person who registers a muskie, is a Triton 17-Explorer/115 hp motor boat/motor/trailer package.

GEORGE WAHL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT September 29

Join in for a one-day tournament held on 13 metro-area lakes. 100% of the proceeds raised by this tournament goes back to the muskie resource. An awards program with a meal will be at Thorne Bros. after the day's fishing. Grand prize is a week-long stay at Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$1000 cash.

— this 'n that —

Northwest Sports Show

Volunteer to help out at the chapter booth at the show, March 28-April 1. Contact Greg Ide at 612-331-5034 or gregide@aol.com

George's Minnesota Muskie Expo

The Expo was started by Twin Cities chapter member George Wahl and features exhibits from over 100 retailers, manufacturers, guides, factory reps, and boats as well as daily seminars from industry's leaders. The expo will be held April 13, 14 & 15 at Ganglehoff Center at Concordia University in St. Paul. Daily admission is \$10.00, a 3-day pass is \$17.00 and kids 12 and under are free.

Metro Muskie Tournament

The Metro Muskie Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 this year. The tournament includes 16 metro-area lakes. You can find more information at www.metromuskietournament.com

Ballards Black Island Resort Outing

Muskies Inc. chapters have been offered a unique opportunity from Ballards Black Island Resort. During the month of October we can reserve the entire resort for up to 18 muskie anglers. Anyone who wants to organize an October chapter outing to Ballards should contact Tom Keith at 612-925-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com for details.

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 for more details. Eric Bakke (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, 651-699-5172) or Pat Miller (donnagmiller@comcast.net, 651-429-1629).

Muskie Tale Presented to Tim Hoene

The "Muskie Tale" given to the person who has the best unusual story of the past fishing season was awarded to Tim Hoene at the February chapter meeting for his story of misadventures on the way to last September's Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament. Here's his tale:



Tim Hoene, his daughter Libby, and her boyfriend Marko Brinatte were fishing in the Frank Schneider Muskie Tournament. Libby had to work at her new job on Friday, so Tim and Marko headed up to the tournament from the cities on Thursday evening after work with the boat in tow and all their gear.

Tim and Libby had registered for the tournament early, but Marko had yet to do so. No problem, they had plenty of time to make it to Walker by 10 pm to get Marko registered and pick up their tournament packets.

Marko and Tim had gotten just past Big Lake when they knew something was not right. After stopping to check it out, they realized that they had blown a wheel bearing on the trailer. After lots of frantic phone calls to every repair shop in the area, they finally found a mechanic to help them.

He drove out to where they were on the side of the road and took the wheel back to his shop to repair it. More frantic phone calls and the only new bearing available was finally located - in Elk River. With their only vehicle on the side of the road with the boat, how were they going to get that bearing? The shop secretary volunteered to drive Tim back to Elk River to pick up the bearing.

The mechanic stayed after hours to install the new bearing and drove Tim back to the boat on the side of the highway and got them on their way. What a nice guy. He didn't charge anything extra and wouldn't take any extra money for the great service.

So Tim and Marko were back on the road, but the time was running out to get to Walker by 10 pm. More frantic phone calls to let them know they were coming. They arrived with 5 minutes to spare. Marko got registered and Tim picked up tournament packets for he and Libby. They headed up to Bemidji where they would be fishing.

On the way there they discovered that the house they had planned on staying at for the weekend was unavailable. More frantic phone calls. They were able to get the last room at an older hotel. Small room, little cots, and not much sleep that night.

The next morning, Marko and Tim were at the boat ramp bright and early so they could be on the water by 7. They removed the tie downs and winch line and started backing the boat down the ramp. Marko was in the boat ready to drive it off the trailer, Tim was driving the truck. He thought they were in the water and Marko could drive off, so he hit the brakes. It was a roller trailer.

Thunk!! And there the boat was. Off the trailer, sitting on the boat ramp, but not exactly in the water. More frantic phone calls and they finally located a company with a flat bed trailer who came to the rescue. The boat was slowly winched up onto the flat bed, inches at a time.

OK, the boat was off the ramp, but how to get it into the water? Extend the bed of the truck out over the water, tilt it, and the boat floats off just like it was supposed to. Not your every day launch, but they were in the water and fishing - just a little late.

Winter Picnic and Chapter Members Only Awards

The February meeting proved to be a great time for all. The evening started off with a “Winter Picnic”, something the chapter has not had since we started having the annual Sportsman’s Banquet. A great idea to bring it back.

After the break Members Only Contest Chair Eric Bakke presented plaques to the winners of the chapter’s Members Only Contest. Final results were published in the February newsletter and can be found on our website www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. After the award presentations John Newman, Greg Ide, Annake Schultz and Peter Janik entertained us with “Muskie Tale” stories.



Clockwise from top left: Corey DeZeeuw not only won our chapter’s Lunker of the Month contest for a 55-inch he caught in September on Lake Waconia, but the fish also earned him Lunker of the Month honors in the International Muskies Inc. Members Only Contest. Jim Kroupa offered Jeri Glander her choice of appropriately-colored lures – a gift to all the ladies present as it was Valentine’s Day. Eric Bakke, who seemed to be the subject of a number of “Muskie Tale” stories, modeled a new helmet he received from story-teller Peter Janik. Lily and Gracie Hartman enjoyed the winter picnic meal.

2012 Hugh C. Becker Foundation Grants

The Hugh C. Becker Grant Committee is pleased to announce the grant recipients for 2012. In order of funding dates, with amounts, totaling \$93,400.00, 2012 Hugh C. Becker Grants are:

To provide funds to the Minnesota DNR, Bemidji Area Fisheries Office, for muskie trap-netting equipment.
MARCH...\$4,000.00

For replacing storm-damaged netting over a muskie-raising pool at the Lost Valley Hatchery in Missouri, matching funds to the Pomme de Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc. #05.
MARCH...\$ 700.00

To fund the Minnesota DNR Field Fisheries Offices in four (4) Areas: West Metro, Little Falls, East Metro, and Montrose, with equipment to enhance muskie management and on-going research. The proposal was submitted by the North Metro Chapter of Muskies Inc. #21, and will be granted to them for area distribution.
MARCH...\$8,800.00

To support the continuing efforts of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. #01, in promoting, organizing, and operating the Minnesota High School muskie-fishing championship program.
APRIL...\$1,500.00

To support the youth program of the Pomme de Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc. #05, (see above NOTE), for the educational shelters in the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area near St. Charles, MO.
APRIL...\$3,100.00

To provide funds to the First Wisconsin Chapter of Muskies Inc. #06, for youth outings fishing equipment.
APRIL...\$700.00

For continuing support of the Dam Escapement Study by the University of Illinois, Natural History Survey, headed by Dr. David Wahl and graduate student Max Wolter. (See Illinois DNR magazine, Outdoor Illinois, January, 2012).
MAY...\$2,500.00

To partially fund the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for their pro-

posed muskie-tagging program at the Linesville, PA, State Fish Hatchery. The grant is for the equipment to be rented from Northwest Marine Technology purchased for future use for this research.

MAY...\$8,100.00

To continue partial funding of the research project at Elk Lake in Itasca State Park on the “Pelagic habitat preference of muskellunge and cisco”. This support is sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc. #24, which is providing some matching funds.
MAY...\$6,800.00

To support the St. Cloud Chapter of Muskies Inc. # 37, youth programs, including the Lake George outing with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Waite Park Family Fun Festival at Garden Island Pond.
JUNE...\$2,000.00

For matching funds for the “Turning Leaf Program”, for youth, initiated and organized by Between the Lakes

continued on page 6

Foundation Grants
continued from page 5

Chapter of Muskies Inc. #20.
JUNE...\$4,000.00

To provide funds to partially purchase equipment for the newly formed youth fishing camp by Long Lake Conservation Center in Palisade, MN.
JUNE...\$2,000.00

To help support construction of an electric fish barrier on West Okoboji Lake on the Iowa Great Lakes through the Upper Great Plains Chapter of Muskies Inc. #29. This is in conjunction with research findings of the Illinois Dam Escapement project. (see above)
JUNE...\$5,700.00

To fund the Minnow (feed) Project at Linesville, PA State Fish Hatchery, through the proposal submitted by the Three Rivers Chapter of Muskies Inc. #16.
JUNE...\$2,000.00

To support the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation in their efforts

to acquire the land for the protection of habitat, including spawning grounds, in Miller Bay of Leech Lake.
JULY...\$10,000.00

For the muskie stocking of fingerlings in the Fox Chain of Lakes and possibly Loon Lake, in Illinois through the Fox River Valley Chapter of Muskies Inc.
JULY...\$3,000.00

To support the Fox River Valley Chapter of Muskies Inc., in their youth activities through the Illinois Urban Fishing program.
JULY...\$1,500.00

To partially assist the efforts of Muskies Canada, Inc., for the Lake Simco Muskellunge Restoration Project.
SEPTEMBER...\$8,000.00

To the continued support of the stocking program of the Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc. #13.
OCTOBER...\$4,000.00

To commemorate the fifty-year (50) anniversary of Muskies Inc., the Hugh C. Becker is interested in sponsoring

the proposed Muskie Symposium to be held in 2016 in the Twin Cities area. At this time an escrow account will be established and additional funds will be made annually to defray anticipated expenses. Other contingencies and consideration will be made public as time approaches.
NOVEMBER...\$15,000.00

Please NOTE that in 2011, the grant designated to be received by the Pomme de Terre Chapter #05 of Muskies Inc. was rescinded because the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation did not provide any matching funds for their youth project. The Chapter is undertaking the complete project in 2012 and these funds plus will be granted; see below. Also NOTE that the Twin Cities Chapter #01 of Muskies Inc. returned \$4,840.00 from the 2011 grant for stocking/studying White Bear Lake, MN, because fish were not available. And NOTE that a contingency for the proposal submitted by the Brainerd Lakes Chapter #24 of Muskies Inc., for land acquisition (2,000 acres and 2.5 miles of river frontage) along the upper Mississippi River, depends on the approval of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund for \$14,000,000.00. A Grant will be given in 2013 if these funds are approved.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Platinum Bonus Package	QTY	\$	
\$155 (\$225 value)	_____	\$	_____

Includes dinner and \$190 in raffle tickets
If purchased before March 10, will be entered in Early-Bird drawings for a Shimano Calcutta reel and a St. Croix Legend rod.

Gold Bonus Package	QTY	\$	
\$105 (\$125 value)	_____	\$	_____

Includes dinner and \$90 in raffle tickets
If purchased before March 10, will be entered in Early-Bird drawing for a Shimano Calcutta reel.

Dinner Reservation Only (\$35 ea.)	QTY	\$	
	_____	\$	_____

I cannot attend but would like to make a donation	QTY	\$	
	_____	\$	_____

DINNER, RAFFLE TICKETS OR PACKAGES WILL NOT BE MAILED AND CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE DOOR.	QTY	\$	
	_____	\$	_____

Total \$ _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO MUSKIES INC. TO:
Joe Mellott, 14927 Utah Place, Savage, MN 55378

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www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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612-866-4730 • olson@3pete.com

Thank Our Sponsors

A big thank you to all the manufacturers, retailers and resorts that have helped the Twin Cities chapter in the past year by donating merchandise and trips used for incentives and prizes for our fundraising events as well as the prizes for the Banquet and the welcome table at each meeting.

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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Pine Beach Resort
Phantom Lures
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Rapala
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Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters
Retreat Lodge
Sah-Kah-Tay Resort
Sébile

George Selcke
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Shimano
'Skie Patrol Guide Service - John Hoyer
Sportsman's Connection
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Accessories – Glittertail
Muskie Lures
Bob Turgeon's Guide Service
True Glide Lures
Vermilion Dam Lodge
Paul Villnow
Wades Custom Tackle
Whitefish Bay Camp

next
meeting

MARCH 13

SPEAKER:

LUKE RONNESTRAND

Well-known guide Luke Ronnestrand spends 90 days per year on Lake Vermilion and the rest of the season on Central Minnesota lakes. Luke is an expert at recognizing short feeding windows and has released fish that may have beaten the Minnesota State Record.



MUSKIES INC.

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Return Service Requested

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