

On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 7

JULY 2014

On-the-Water Meeting in July

White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle Lake will be the site of our July on-the-water meeting. The evening will be a “Mini-Challenge” between Twin Cities and North Metro chapters. The winning chapter will treat the other chapter to pizza after fishing.

Fishing hours are from 5 - 9 pm and you can fish either lake. This is also one of our chapter’s summer league outings, so if you participate, you will earn league points.

At least one person in your boat needs to be someone from the North Metro chapter, so each boat will have at least one person from each chapter. More than 2 people can fish from a boat. Your partner from the other chapter must wit-

ness your fish’s measurement. The chapter that catches the most fish (points awarded using Muskies Inc point system) will win.

To find a partner from North Metro go to the muskiefirst.com site. Choose Muskie Clubs Forum. A thread has been started by Steve Sorgenfrei.

If you have a marine band radio, use channel 69 for on-the-water chatter during the evening.

All participants are invited to Beartown Lounge for pizza after fishing. Beartown Lounge is located on the west side of Hwy 61 in White Bear Lake.

At last year’s mini-challenge our chapter footed the bill for the pizza. Let’s not let that happen again.

Tell Us Your “Muskie Tale”

While you’re fishing this season, keep in mind all the things that happen while you’re out. It might earn you the chapter’s “Muskie Tale”. We’re looking for stories that are something a little out of the ordinary – what happened while fishing; on the way to fishing; on the way back from fishing. Maybe some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing; or you found something interesting on the end of your line. We’ve already seen a picture of a giant snapping turtle caught during the Metro Muskie Tournament. We’re not necessarily looking for the “big fish” story. We all hear enough of those. Share with us by emailing your “tale” to Denise Olson at olson@3pete.com. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the chapter Muskie Tale Award for a year.

Look for Muskies With the Yellow Tag!

The Twin Cities chapter, the North Metro chapter, and the MN DNR have collaborated on a multi-year stocking program of Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake, leading to some longer-term data collection. The purpose is to determine if it is more effective and efficient to stock yearling muskies or fingerling muskies. From 2008-2012 a total of 5,896 fingerlings and 1,664 yearlings were stocked in those lakes. All stocked fish have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin.

When fishing those three lakes, you should be looking for fish in 18-45 inch range to have the yellow tags. If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR really needs data from you. Specifically, they need the name of the lake, the number on the yellow tag, and the length of the fish. They would also appreciate your name and phone number in case they need to follow-up. **DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG.** It is important that they get data on the re-catchability of fish.



You can go online to the DNR tag reporting website page http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

Additionally, the fish have an internal PIT tag. Our chapter and the North Metro chapter have each purchased two PIT tag readers. Several people from each chapter have been asked to use the readers on all muskies caught on the lakes. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Keith at tomk@usiwireless.com.

From Our President, TOM KEITH

June is a very busy month for our chapter. In the articles about the events there is a thread that runs through all of them – that is the quality of our membership. Whether it's as a guide, judge, or deep fryer of trout, our people generously give of themselves and their time. It makes a difference in people's lives and you understand that.

The three basic tenets of Muskies Inc are: Youth, Fisheries, and Research. As a chapter we meet and exceed those expectations. We understand that the viability of the muskie fishery will be determined by how we meet those expectations.

We have a multi-faceted approach to youth: our involvement with the high school muskie tournament, partnering with Fishing for Life to help military families, and lures for kids attending our meetings. That is not all we can do, but is what we are doing now.

Maintaining the metro-area fisheries goes back to day one of the members of our chapter. Without their vision, there would not be local waters with muskies. Stocking Chair John Newman has an ambitious plan for this year to provide a major enhancement of White Bear Lake and Lake St. Croix. He has built a solid

relationship with the DNR, who understand the sincerity and commitment of our chapter.

While "I think ____" is anecdotal data that may be informational, the best data comes from scientific research. We are working with the DNR and the North Metro Chapter on a collection of data from all of you as a follow-up to our three-year stocking study on Minnetonka, Bald Eagle, and White Bear Lake. It is very important that you check the fish you catch on those three lakes and report the tag number, fish length, date caught, and which of the three lakes it was caught. Ultimately, we hope that this DNR study will give a clearer picture of what and how we should be stocking.

Remember that we do not have meetings at the Knights of Columbus hall in July and August. July is the Mini-Challenge with North Metro and August is our picnic at Minnehaha Park.

The Tournament Committee can use help stuffing packets for the George Wahl Tournament. They will be meeting at 5:30 pm on July 29 at the KC hall in Bloomington. Please come help if you can.

Be safe and have fun on the water!

Capable Partners

Several members from Capable Partners joined members of our chapter June 8 on Lake Minnetonka for a morning of chasing muskies. Capable Partners is a non-profit organization that provides hunting, fishing, and other outdoor-related opportunities for physically challenged individuals.

Three muskies were caught by the group. Capable Partner member Craig Simpson was muskie fishing for the first time ever. He was out with chapter member Dave Gustafson and they boated a 42 and a 50-incher. Not bad for an introduction to muskie fishing!

Capable Partner Karl Anderson has been fishing at this event for over 10 years with guide Wayne Klemz. Karl's under-40" fish was the third muskie.

The anglers came in about noon and were treated to a burger and brat meal.

Thanks to Paul Hartman who organized the event and to all the chapter members who served as guides for the Capable Partners.



Top: Member of our chapter and Capable Partners enjoyed the outing. Above: Craig Simpson with his 50-incher held by guide Dave Gustafson. Right: Karl Anderson with his muskie.

Wayzata and Watertown-Mayer Move on to Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament Final

from Tom Keith, Chapter President/ State High School Tournament Organizer



Eight student teams representing six different high schools competed in the regional qualifier held by the Twin Cities chapter.

This marks the fifth consecutive year our chapter has hosted a regional tournament leading to the Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament final. The regional event was held Friday, June 13 on Lake Minnetonka.

After days of wind and rain, the skies had cleared and the wind disappeared. The bluebird skies made for a day of difficult fishing. The eight student teams representing six different high schools were seeing muskies. In fact, one of the teams saw over ten of the illusive fish. The difficulty was getting them to bite.

Minnetonka's 5 mph limit provided a nice, safe playing field and participants had to make time management decisions about how far could they go and be back in time for the finish. All the teams and the judges worked hard throughout the day.

At the end of the day, all there were to count was northerns and most teams caught a number of them.

The winning team, with the largest northern, was Mavrik Joos and Justin Bergeron from Wayzata High School. The Watertown-Mayer team of Brayden Snow and Christian Donovan qualified second. The two teams will represent our region at the State Tournament on



Mavrik Joos and Justin Bergeron from Wayzata High School took top honors in the regional qualifier for the State High School Muskie Tournament. Along with the team from Watertown-Mayer they will represent our region in the state tournament June 27.

Friday, June 27 at Mantrap Lake.

I am grateful to the individuals and groups that support this event: Hedron Industries, Members of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc., the Hugh C. Becker Foundation, the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc., Musky Mayhem, Musky Innovations, Jim Kroupa, Greg Ide, Corey DeZeeuw, Kris Astorp, Chris Cochran, Eric Schultz, Val Holtus, and Dennis Lappen. Without their help, this event would not be possible!

Metro Muskie Tournament

The 18th annual Metro Muskie Tournament was held June 14 on 27 metro-area lakes. The 486 entrants had a tough time with wind gusts up to 68 mph, white-out rain squalls, extreme lightning events and "no wake" high-water restrictions. The Sheriff's Patrol on many of the lakes approached contestants to leave the water. There was no dominant lake, with the top 7 spots coming from 7 different lakes.

The 2014 tournament champion was Mathew Buck who caught 40.5" and a 41" muskie on Bald Eagle. He was the only participant to enter more than one fish. Junior winner, Louie Love was one of the youngest champions, catching a 45" also from Bald Eagle. Mike Bailey took the "big fish" honors as well as 2nd place with a White Bear 49-incher. Richard Graf's 45" Lake Elmo tiger tied the all-time largest event hybrid from 1998 and earned him 6th place.

Complete results can be found at metromuskietournament.com

Chapter Summer Fishing League

from Nic Romero, Chapter Fishing League Chair

So far our points leader is Eric Schultz with 10 points having fished two events. We are hoping for a big turnout for our July 8 Chapter Mini Challenge with North Metro on White Bear and Bald Eagle.

The Summer Fishing League is intended as a fun outing with other chapter members. It is a great way to meet other muskie anglers, make friends, and learn more about muskie fishing. Everyone is welcome to join league outings.

If you'd like more information on any of the outings or if you want to be included on the league email list, email me and I'll get you set up. Remember to email your results to NicRRomero@gmail.com within 48 hours of each event.

The remainder of the league events are:

Tuesday July 8

White Bear & Bald Eagle;
5pm - 9pm – Mini Challenge.
Losers buy pizza afterwards!

Wednesday July 23

Lake Minnetonka-Grey's Bay
Landing; 5pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday August 6

White Bear Lake; 5pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday August 20

Lake Minnetonka-Grey's Bay
Landing; 5pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday August 27

Lake Independence;
5pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday September 17

Forest Lake; 5pm - 9:30pm

Saturday September 27

Waconia or White Bear Lake;
7am - 1pm – Aligns with the
George Wahl Tournament

Please note that dates and lake locations are subject to change. Cancellations may occur due to weather conditions or if lake water temps reach 80 degrees.

Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration



Left: Mike Kuure and chapter president Tom Keith, presented winners Jason and Carter with their prize. Above: Guide Peter Janik is shown holding the 45-inch muskie caught by participating soldier SFC Eric Hagen.

Friday, June 20 was the 6th time our chapter has co-sponsored Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration on Lake Minnetonka with co-sponsor, Fishing for Life. The water was high, some docks were under water, and a wake-restricted speed of 5 mph was in effect. Rows of other volunteer guide boats, military families, military members, and Fishing for Life volunteers greeted the guides as they arrived at Lord Fletcher's.

All participants under the age of 16 received a complimentary gift bag from our chapter. It included the double 7s that were made at a general meeting and several donated lures. After a brief ceremony and singing of the national anthem, guides met up with the people they were taking out and then were off for a morning of fishing.

We had great weather and the increased depth gave more options for holding areas. People were catching fish. Coming back to the docks shortly after 11 a.m., you could see the smiles on the kid's faces. They were excited as they brought their bags of fish to the weighing in station.

A 27" muskie was caught by one of the kids and called in. This was the first muskie caught in several years, so we were excited.

Results were totaled and trophies

and prizes were awarded. During the weigh-in, Mike Kuure, the DNR Mentoring Program and State Record Fish Coordinator, kept the crowd entertained and the program moving.

Twin Cities member Peter Janik guided SFC Eric Hagen, one of the participating soldiers, to his first ever muskie. Eric was very excited about catching the 45" muskie. When he received his prize, Peter was called up and given a plaque as the "Champion Guide" for the day.

A great meal was provided to all, a hectic 5 minute "sunnies shootout" was held, and the event was done.

A special thank you to the staff and management of Lord Fletcher's for their skills in delivering great service and food to a large crowd. The volunteer guides from our chapter, North Metro chapter, and other organizations, did a great job of putting people on fish and deserve our continuing thanks! Our co-sponsor, Fishing For Life, does continuing excellent work in organizing this event.

When you see the smiles on the faces of the kids, it really shows you why we do this. The day creates a strong sense of affiliation and is an exceptional experience for our military families, disabled vets, and active duty personnel.

Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Summer is finally here and so are these endless rain showers! Even though the south part of Minnesota is under water, that doesn't change the fact that there are fish biting somewhere no matter the conditions. The season has been open for a couple weeks now, have you been out fishing yet?

My name is Eric Bakke and I am back again for another season as the Members only contest chair.

This year the ONLY way to get your fish registered, is by going to the Muskies Inc. website (www.muskiesinc.org) and register it there. You will need your member number and set up a password the first time you visit the site, which takes a few minutes, but after that you are set to go for the duration. If you have any questions at all about the new technology, please email me at bakke193@umn.edu or call me at 612-202-7169 and I will do my best to get you going online.

All entries older than ONE month from the day the fish was caught will not count. For those of you who haven't used the Lunge Log system before, it is a collection of all the muskies that have been registered by Muskies Inc. members throughout the states since the 1970s. It is completely customizable and you can find out as much or as little information you would like to know about a certain body of water, a certain type of bait. Heck you can even look at where all the 50-inchers have been caught! It is a great tool if you haven't ever used it, but we do ask that if you do use this information to catch more fish that you register the fish that you catch.

We already have some great fish that have been caught. We still don't have a Junior or Women's Division fish registered, but it is early.

Hope everyone has been able to throw a lure or two this year. If not, find some time. Good luck to all and thanks for your participation.

The standings here are as of June 25.

August Pot Luck Picnic

Don't forget that the August meeting will be our annual Pot Luck Summer Picnic at Minnehaha Falls Park. Burgers, brats, buns and pop will be provided. Everyone should bring a side dish or dessert to share. Meet at 6:00 pm at the pavilion on Minnehaha Parkway by the falls. This is an enjoyable night for the whole family, so bring the kids. Everyone is invited.



New member BJ Olson caught this 51-inch muskie on Lake of the Woods during the opening week of Canadian muskie fishing. Share your fish photos by sending to Members Only Contest chair, Eric Bakke at bakke193@umn.edu or newsletter editor Denise Olson at olson@3pete.com.

WOMEN'S MASTERS

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Linda Knutson		1 fish	41"

MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Alexander McLean	39	2	48"
2ND	Matt Olson	31	2	43"
3RD-T	Jonathan Meyers	21	2	42.5"
3RD-T	Tom Batina	21	2	39"
5TH	John Newman	16	1	42"
6TH	Eric Bakke	15	2	36"
7TH-T	Chris Mueller	11	2	33"
7TH-T	Terry Schar	11	1	37"
9TH	Erik Chrissis	9	1	35"

MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	David Gustafson	70	4	51.5"
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LUNKER OF THE MONTH

APRIL Matt Olson - 43" - 4/26/2014 - Clear Lake, IA

JUNE Unofficial - David Gustafson - 51.5" - 6/9/2014 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

If there are any discrepancies in the numbers please let me know, I will adjust accordingly. Sometimes with the online submission things don't always go into the computer like you wanted them to. Let me know if there are any changes that need to be made with any duplicate fish or incorrect information in your submissions. Thanks again to everyone for your participation.

See you On the Water!

Muskies Inc.'s Longest Running Competitive Event

Our chapter has been holding tournaments as a way to support all our activities and stocking since its inception. The first tournament was organized by founder Gil Hamm in 1967. It was held the weekend after Labor Day because most resorts reduced their rates after Labor Day. That first event on the Cass Lake chain in northern Minnesota has continued to this day.

It was originally known as the "International", but in the 1990s it was renamed the Frank Schneider Jr. Muskie Tournament by then-tournament director George Wahl to honor Frank Schneider who, while never elected to office, worked tirelessly with the state legislature to improve hunting and fishing for the people of Minnesota.

The Frank Schneider tournament is the main fundraiser that keeps this chapter going. It raises between \$12,000 and \$15,000 each year that not only provides funds for stocking efforts, but also funds our chapter's other activities. Without the tournament our chapter would not be able to give door prizes at each meeting, to have a meal at our annual August picnic or the February awards, to take the Capable Partners on an outing, to co-partner with Fishing for Life at the Armed Forces Family Fishing Day. All those things that make this the organization you're a part of happen because of the money raised at the tournament.

Today that first tournament started by Gil Hamm 47 years ago has grown to a three-day event, held on over 20 lakes in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Leech Lake-Longville area. Over 500 people participate. Feeds Friday and Saturday nights in three locations across the tournament area give participants not only a good meal, but provide time to visit with other participants, see the day's results and find out where the fish are. Sunday all participants come together for a feed and the awards program and Grand Prize drawing.

You can imagine that an event of this size needs lots of work to make it happen. Our Tournament Committee works all year to do the planning, but it takes many people to make those plans happen. We're not asking for anyone to join the committee, just to step forward and do ONE thing to help make the tournament happen – a few hours of your time, one time during the year.

What Can You Do to Help?

Take ownership of this tournament. It's YOUR tournament. It's not just an event for a few of our members. It's the history of our chapter. It's the history of Muskies Inc. It's what makes our chapter be able to do what we do. So, first and foremost, participate!

The Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament is not a cut-throat, professional type event. The great majority of the people who fish in this event never participate in another tournament. We have found that many have made this a yearly tradition for their family or favorite group of guys.

Over the years participation from our own members has dropped off even though they are the main beneficiary of the event. Let's change that. Get your friends/family together and make plans to spend a weekend fishing and doing some good for the chapter and the muskie fishery.

We know it's not easy to get a Friday off to fish and last year we started a two-day, Saturday-Sunday option for those who can't get away.

Online tournament registration will open August 1 at our chapter website. If you've fished the tournament in the past 3 years, you will be mailed registration forms mid-July.

If you really can't spare a weekend, there are other ways you can be a part of the tournament. You might:

- Help put together tournament packets
- Help out one night at one of the feeds
- Help sell raffle tickets on Sunday
- Run errands the week before the tournament
- Process on-line tournament registrations
- Work at locations to take last day registrations
- Send out tournament information to newspapers

Please contact Tournament Director, Denise Olson, at olsonat3pete@gmail.com or 612-804-4687 to volunteer for a small job for the tournament or for more information on ways you can help make this tournament happen.



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next meeting

JULY 8

ON THE WATER: White Bear/Bald Eagle

Fish your choice of White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle Lake with a member of the North Metro Chapter. We will be having a "Mini-Challenge" with North Metro Chapter. Participants will meet afterwards at Beartown Lounge in White Bear Lake. Losing chapter will buy pizza for the winning chapter.

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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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 prizes at our Banquet and Tournaments as well as at 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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Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle	Lakewood Products	Phantom Lures	Temple Fork Outfitters
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Broadwater Bay Resort	Leech Lake Gaming Division	Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods	Triton Boats
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Cats Tails	Mantrap Lodge on Big Mantrap Lake	Sah-Kah-Tay Resort	Bob Turgeon's Guide Service
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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 welcome table at each meeting. You will see ads from our sponsors who have made major donations to our chapter in the newsletter throughout the year. The sponsors with ads here have made major donations to the chapter of products, gift certificates, guide trips, and resort stays for our banquet, tournaments and welcome table. The ads are one of the ways we thank them.

Please consider these resorts and/or guides when you are planning a fishing trip or just a day of fishing in the metro area. If you're looking for a new bait, keep in mind 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 in the stores, please tell them thank you from our chapter.

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 muskie resource and its members.

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