

On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 6

JUNE 2014



2014 Vet's Home Opener

from Tom Keith

The 25th Annual Fishing Opener at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home was held May 3. The Twin Cities chapter annually co-sponsors this event with several VFW, American Legion, and AmVets posts. Many thanks to Troy Zeulke for organizing this event. We contract to have a trout pond erected on the Veteran's Home grounds and stocked with trout. Volunteers from our chapter help the residents catch fish, clean the fish, and prepare and serve a shore lunch. The shore lunch is the freshly-caught trout, fried potatoes, beans, rolls and cookies. It is so good that it brings these veterans back to a time when they did this for their families.

As vets and their families come down to the pond, each receives a commemorative hat. For many, the hat is symbolic of a younger, healthier time for them. Others prefer to keep wearing their military hats to show

continued on page 4



We Need Your Help!

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 recatchability of fish. You can either 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

Our chapter did an amazing job with the Vet's Home Opener on May 3. Organized by Troy Zeulzke and carried out by members of our chapter, it is a very special event.

We can use a couple of additional judge boats for the Twin City Chapter of Muskies Inc qualifying event for the High School State Muskie Tournament. The date of the event is Friday, June 13. We also can use some additional guide boats for the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration. That date is Friday, June 20 and both events are on Lake Minnetonka. Please contact me (tomk@usiwireless.com) if you are interested and available.

Thanks to noted guide, Josh Borovsky for his excellent presentation at the May general meeting. Josh gave specific answers to questions, that should help people structure their fishing this summer. Travis Frank will be presenting at the June meeting. In place of the July general meeting, we will have the Mini-Challenge with North Metro.

Now is not too early to be thinking about if you want to deepen your involvement in our chapter for 2015. The needs range from serving on a committee to chairing one. Remember, any one can be on a committee, you don't have to be a board member. There is no better way to make that difference by getting involved and helping set the agenda for the future.

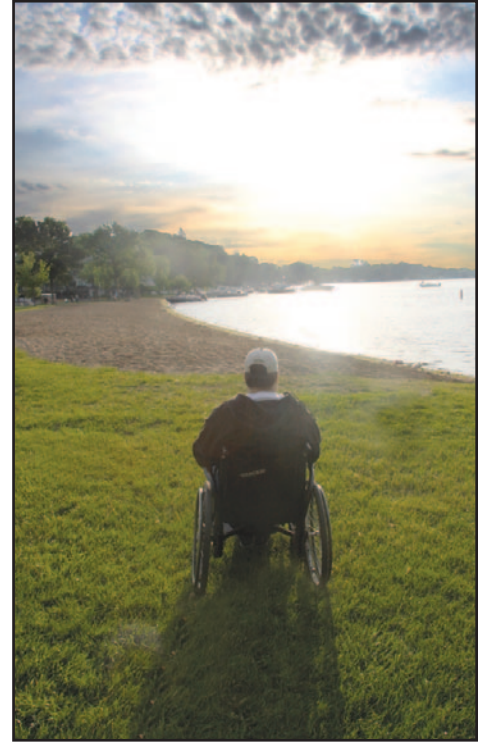
Have a great and safe opening of Muskie season!

TOM KEITH

Capable Partners Outing is June 8

The Capable Partners outing June 8 on Lake Minnetonka is a great way to share your love of muskie fishing and the outdoors with people who otherwise could not participate. Capable Partners is a non-profit organization that provides hunting, fishing, and related opportunities for physically-challenged individuals.

Volunteers are needed to take guests out for a morning of fishing or to help with the "shore lunch" that will be served when fishing is over. About one-half of participants will need space in the boat for wheelchairs, but any size boat can be matched with one of the Capable Partners. We will meet at Surfside Park in Mound on Cook's Bay at 6:30 am. Please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 to volunteer.



June Muskie Tournaments

The season brings two opportunities to show your muskie fishing prowess – or, maybe just go out and have some fun with other muskie anglers. The Metro Muskie Tournament and the June Jam offer you a great way to start the season. Neither of these events is extremely competitive, mostly just a good time.

Metro Muskie Tournament, June 14

The Metro Muskie Tournament has brought back both Forest Lake and Bald Eagle Lake this year as well as adding Minnetonka. You have your choice of over 20 metro-area waters. Entries are available through Friday, June 13 at Gander Mountain in Blaine, Thorne Bros. or Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle. You may also go to www.metro-muskietournament.com for a printable form to mail in by June 6. Entry fee is \$35 per person. All muskies caught will qualify for the grand prize, a one week stay at Musky Bay Resort on Crow Lake, Ontario, a Slammer lure package, and a Fenwick rod with Abu Garcia reel. Prizes are awarded through 10th place with a junior division. Contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 if you have questions.

June Jam, June 21-22

North metro's annual tournament, the June Jam, is held on eight muskie lakes in Polk County, Wisconsin – Bone, Deer, Apple River Flowage, Blake, Cedar, Round, Bear Trap and Wapogasset with a full day of fishing on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Tournament headquarters will be at Wilkin's Bar and Resort on Bone Lake. Entry is now open for this year's tournament. Entry fee is \$50 per person. Prizes of Blue Ribbon Gift Certificates and lure packages are awarded through 5th place. There is also a junior prize awarded and for the big fish of the tournament. For more information on the June Jam, contact tournament director Steve Wernersbach at swernersbach@gmail.com or 763-242-2625.

Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration

The Twin Cities chapter of Muskies Inc., Fishing for Life, and Lord Fletcher's are proud to sponsor our sixth annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration on Friday, June 20. This event on Lake Minnetonka is exclusively for children and their families who have had a family member in the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, National Guard, etc.), as well as for Wounded Warriors and veterans recently returned from deployment.

Volunteer fishing guides will bring their boats to the lake and take participants out on the water for a great morning of fishing action. Bait and loaner equipment is provided for those who don't have their own, but most families have their own equipment. There is great shore fishing at this location while participants wait for their turn for a boat.

Participants should arrive at Lord Fletcher's between 6:30 and 7 am for registration and free donuts. Youngsters under 12 will be accompanied by an adult. Everyone will fish all morning, then enjoy a delicious lunch at no cost to participants. Following will be an awards ceremony with trophies and medals for youth participants. The event ends around 1:00 pm. Our chapter is giving a new rod and reel to the kid who catches the largest muskie.

Guides are still needed to take the kids and their family members out fishing. Fishing is for any species.



Worms and larva will be provided for panfishing. Please contact brenda@fishingforlife.org or 763-245-9829 if you are available to guide. In the past, there were more guides from the bass organizations than there were from Muskies Inc. who is a sponsor of the event. So please think about taking a morning to guide these kids and their family members.

DON'T call Lord Fletcher's with questions. Make sure you contact Brenda at Fishing for Life or Tom Keith at tomk@usiwireless.com. Thank you!

The Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration will take place rain or shine. It will only be cancelled if there is lightning or torrential rain. We hope to see more Muskies Inc. guides out there on the lake than those from other organizations. Please consider.

Tell Us Your "Muskie Tale"

As you start fishing this season, keep in mind all the things that happen while you're out. It might earn you the chapter's "Muskie Tale" Award. 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 you found something interesting on the end of your line; or some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing. 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.

Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament

For the 5th consecutive year, the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc will to host one of the regional qualifying events for the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament. Each of the Muskies Inc chapters in Minnesota can host a regional event and advance up to two high school teams to the State Tournament. Teams from Watertown-Mayer HS, Edina HS, Wayzata HS, Rosemount HS, Eagan HS, and Andover HS are registered and preparing to compete in the regional on Friday, June 13 at Lake Minnetonka. A couple of additional high schools have indicated that they will know if their teams will compete by the deadline. One of the Wayzata HS teams is looking to repeat as a qualifier and compete in the State Tournament on Friday, June 27 at Mantrap Lake near Park Rapids.

At the qualifying event, students will launch from Gray's Bay at 5:30 a.m. and fish until 1:30 p.m. When fishing ends they will meet at the launch and compare pictures of the day's catch. The top two teams will be determined and prizes will be awarded.

Throughout the day, judge boats on the water will be keeping track of the students and providing any needed assistance. Each judge will be assigned three boats and will be in contact with them throughout the day. If you would be interested in serving as a judge and even getting in some fishing that day, please contact Tom Keith at tom@usiwireless.com

The students work hard and demonstrate the best qualities of American youth. Last year's winning team at the regional, Michael Brown and Brandon Gray from Faribault HS, boated a 41 inch muskie to win our local event.



Family members enjoyed the day with the veterans.



Greg Ide and Matt Olson helped cook the potatoes and beans.



Carol and Dennis cheerfully cleaned hundreds of trout the entire morning.



Herb Gager

Vet's Home *continued from page 1*

their pride in their service. Most usually ask for a hat, though to wear later. The veterans either walk or get rolled to the trout pond by family members or their personal care attendants. Some regulars are seen arriving early. They really look forward to this annual fishing event and they so like to fish!

As the fish are caught, they are brought to the cleaning tables. Carol and Dennis Heath have provided amazing leadership and dedication for years to the cleaning of those trout. When you have a great product like that trout, you need some great chefs to prepare the lunch. Our cooking crew does a great job of deep-frying the fish, cooking the potatoes with onions, and heating up the baked beans. Thanks to all the members who parboil and cut up the potatoes the night before. It really helps speed up the process.

The serving crew has sliced all the buns and serves the food and cookies to all the vets and their families. They do a great job of engaging the people as they come through the line. Our members talk to the vets, but

more importantly, they listen to them. On the news, it was reported that we are losing many of our remaining WWII vets each day. They made huge sacrifices for our country and those stories need to be preserved.

I talked with Herb Gager, a 94 year old Marine, who earned a Purple Heart while serving on Iwo Jima from 1944-1946.

If you have worked this event before, you know Armin Fiemeyer. He is a 92 year old Army veteran, who is typically the first person down to start fishing in the morning. He said he saw some terrible things during his time in the Philippines from 1942-1945. I did not ask the obvious question, because I think I already knew the answer. He has a positive attitude and when I asked him if I could take his picture, he surprised me. He asked if it was okay for him to stand at attention. When he snapped into attention, I found it hard to take the picture with my tears running down my cheeks.

As one of our members told me, "this is the finest thing we do all year". Nothing captures the day like Vince Trotta's picture: It's over, when it's over!



Armin Fiemeyer



Shore lunch was enjoyed by all.



It's over when it's over!

Chapter President, Tom Keith, received this letter after the the Fishing Opener at the Minnesota Veteran's Home

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the Residents, their families and staff here at the Minnesota Veterans Home-Minneapolis, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for a beautiful morning of fishing, food and friendship.

I thought that the change in venue was a positive move. With everyone's input, the changes were well planned and executed. Residents, families and staff were very happy with how much easier it was for them to get around. It was a great turn-out.

I am amazed at the support which comes together to sponsor this event each year. There is no doubt that the Fishing Opener is the most anticipated event of the year. Together with friends like Muskies Inc. and supporting organizations we can make "Every Day, Veterans Day" here at the Minnesota Veterans Home-Minneapolis.

I look forward to working with you again next year. Please express our gratitude to all those who worked behind the scenes and those who were here working to make it a great day.

*Sincerely,
Sandy Larson, Public Affairs Director
Minnesota Veterans Home-Minneapolis*



Lucky Libby Fishing Event with Veterans

Chapter members Tim and Libby Hoene are hosting the eleventh annual "Lucky Libby" Muskie Fishing Event for veterans and Wounded Warriors the morning of June 22 at Surfside Park on Lake Minnetonka. A complimentary noon barbeque will be served after fishing. If you can volunteer to guide the veterans please contact Tim (763-370-3802) or Libby (763-755-2484) to volunteer.

New 54-inch Minimum Length for Muskies

The Minnesota legislature this session passed a bill that includes a 54-inch minimum length statewide for muskies starting in 2015. This is something that the MN Muskie Pike Alliance and other key muskie environmentalists have been requesting for several years. It is the best thing to happen to Muskies in many years.

Many thanks to all those who supported this with calls and emails to your legislators. To those that testified and made trips to the Capitol, thank you isn't enough. It's your efforts that gave Muskies a face and soul that the legislature had never seen before.

The support of Rep. David Dill, Sen. Tom Bakk, Sen. Carrie Rudd, Sen. Matt Schmidt and most importantly Sen. John Hoffman was key to making this happen. Please call or email to thank these key people. It was dead without them.

Senator Thomas M. Bakk (651) 296-8881
sen.john.hoffman@senate.mn
sen.carrie.ruud@senate.mn
sen.matt.schmit@senate.mn
rep.david.dill@house.mn

Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Did we think it would ever arrive? After a long 6 months of waiting the season is finally here! I am excited for the competition of another Members Only Contest. For those of you who haven't been a part of this before, it can be a great way to keep you involved and thinking about what is working and what isn't for more than just your boat.

Remember that all fish must be registered within 30 days of the catch. You may register your fish on-line at the national website: www.muskiesinc.org. Go to Member Login and log in. Click the lunge log button and then click the top button, lunge log entry. Complete the information required and click

submit.

Or, you may register by printing out a registration form and mailing it to Eric Bakke, 290H BFAB, 516 15th Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55455, or email it to bakke193@umn.edu.

Release points are based on 4 points for each release over 30" and 1 point for each inch over 30". Any measurement of 1/2" or longer will be rounded up. Any fraction of less than 1/2" will be dropped.

The longest muskie released by a member of the Twin Cities Chapter Muskies Inc. (all divisions) will receive a free replica of their muskie courtesy of the Twin Cities Chapter Muskies Inc. and Lax Reproductions.

Now get out there and put some fish in the boat! Good luck to all and we will see you "On The Water"!

Join Us this Summer for the Chapter Fishing League!

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.

Nic Romero is again organizing the chapter fishing league this year. Contact Nic at 651-214-5269 or at NicRRomero@gmail.com if you are interested in taking part in the events and for event changes. Please let him know if you are in need of a partner and he will try to find one.

Rules for the league are simple:

- This is an individual league with as many people in a boat as desired. League members can fish in as many of the events as they want.
- Anglers may not use any live bait.
- All catches must be verified by another league member for fish to count. A digital camera shall be used to take a photo of fish to provide proof of catch to other league members.

Scoring is as follows:

- 4 points for a 30" muskie and 1 point for each inch over 30". This is the same as the Muskies Inc. Member's Only Contest.

- 5 points per event fished
- 3 points will be awarded to each boat partner of a successful catch during the league
- 3 points for fishing with a new partner during a league event (new option for this year)
- Please email your results to NicRRomero@gmail.com within 48 hours of the event.

Pictures are not required but highly encouraged, even when you don't catch fish. We look forward to having as many members as possible participate in these events.

Some of the events this year have an east or west metro option. We are again planning a "Mini Challenge" with the North Metro chapter. The 2014 Summer League schedule is as follows:

Date	Lake	Time
Saturday June 14	Bald Eagle or White Bear	6am to 12:00pm
Aligns with the Metro Muskie Tournament		
Thursday June 19	Waconia	5pm to 9:30pm
Aligns with North Metro chapter's west option for their league		
Wednesday June 25	Forest Lake	5pm to 9:30pm
Tuesday July 8	White Bear & Bald Eagle	TBD
Mini Challenge. Losers buy pizza afterwards!		
Wednesday July 23	Lake Minnetonka-Grey's Bay Landing	5pm to 9:30pm
Wednesday August 6	White Bear Lake	5pm to 9:30pm
Wednesday August 20	Lake Minnetonka	5pm to 9:30pm
Wednesday August 27	Independence	5pm to 9:30pm
Wednesday September 17	Forest Lake	5pm to 9:30pm
Saturday September 27	Waconia or White Bear	7am to 1pm
Aligns with the George Wahl Tournament		

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

Print Your Member ID Cards

The national Muskies Inc. is no longer mailing out Muskies Inc. ID cards to members. They may print their own ID cards at any time from the muskiesinc.org website. Log in to the Members Only section of the website using the Member Login button on the left of the home page. Once you have logged in, click on the profile update button. In the upper right corner of the profile, there is a link that you can click on and print your card. For family members, the family head can print the IDs for the entire family.





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On the Water is published
monthly for members and
friends of the Twin Cities
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All kids under the age of 18 get a free lure for attending.

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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Brave New Workshop	LAX Reproductions	Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky	Trappers Landing Lodge
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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Thanks to the Sponsors Who Donate to the Twin Cities Chapter

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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