

On the Water



A Memorable Canadian Experience



What a perfect sight to end a great day of hunting for muskies, eating well, sharing stories and remembering George Wahl.

from Wayne Klemz

I was the lucky Grand Prize winner of a week stay at Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods at the 2013 5th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie tournament. My 42.5-inch muskie put me in the Grand Prize drawing. A 40-inch or better muskie caught and registered in the tournament earns an entry into the drawing. Being a friend of George Wahl's, it was an honor to be able to fish the spots he had enjoyed.

George fell in love with fishing the clear trout waters of Whitefish Bay and went there several times a summer since the '70s. During that third of a century George encountered some GIANT fish in Whitefish Bay. I, along with my fishing partner Mike Walsh, were anticipating contacting similar fish on our own. We recruited Paul Hartman and John (Old Fart) Olson, also long-time friends of George, to attend the HUNT with us.

We booked the trip for mid-September. After traveling to Nestor Falls, Ontario, we made our way to the

Whitefish Bay Camp landing, unloaded our gear into the boats and took the short trip to Calvert Island. We were greeted at the Whitefish Bay Camp dock by camp owner Bob and the camp attendant and dock handyman Shane, who hauled all our gear to the cabin. After claiming who had which room in the cabin, we quickly grabbed some gear and sprinted to the dock to "bring it on".

Mike and I had never been to Whitefish Bay before and after many years of the hearing the lore and stories, the anticipation had us chomping at the bit to hit the water and contact the famed "Monster Fish of Whitefish Bay".

I hopped into Paul's boat, knowing, of course, that Paul had fished 20-plus years with George Wahl. Paul selected Wind Sock as our starting point – only 400 yards off the docks!! We quickly contacted several pike and I released a feisty but short muskie (skunk out of the box) in 15 minutes!!

Over the next six days we settled into

continued on page 2

Chapter Board of Directors Elections

Nominations for members of the chapter's Board of Directors will be taken at the November meeting. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected by chapter members present at the December meeting and will each serve a two-year term starting in January. Once board members have been elected, we will hold elections for chapter officers from among the board members. Chapter officers serve for one-year terms.

Current Board members Jim Doyle, Peter Janik, Jon Meyers, John Newman, Denise Olson, Eric Schultz and Troy Zuelzke have terms that expire this year.

Consider taking part in making decisions that affect you as a member of this chapter. The Board needs people who are interested and willing to participate in the chapter and its future. The chapter Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus.

Contact Tom Keith (612-925-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com) or any current board member if you're interested in joining the Board of Directors.

From Our President

The fall fishing season still has some time, so hopefully you can get out a few more days. It is a great time to be on the water. There is nothing better than a fall day when the kids are in school, the pleasure boaters are done for the year, and the docks are out. It looks like an entirely different lake and areas can open up and present themselves. This is always the time of year when we look at our tackle boxes and wonder why we bring hundreds of lures, but only use a dozen.

Hopefully, you have had a good season and fished with some new people. I was fortunate to fish with some great people and also take several guide trips. To a person, all the guides delivered high quality service and helped deepen my understanding of the fishery. They took great care of me and I highly recommend them. Guides can help break some of the ruts we develop and show us new ways to handle situations. A nice part is the reinforcement of all the things you are doing right. Think about booking a trip with these highly professional guides next year!

The Board will be bringing a full slate of nominated officers to the December general meeting for the elections for 2015. If you know someone interested in serving on the Board, please encourage them and have them contact me.

There is a need for a couple of people, who have project-specific skills. We need someone to increase our presence on Facebook. We also need someone with graphic skills to develop a logo for the 2016 Muskie Symposium we are hosting. If you have an interest and skills, please contact me

Be safe, have fun on the water, and remember to call in your tagged fish on Minnetonka, White Bear Lake, and Bald Eagle!

TOM KEITH

Canadian Experience *continued from page 1*



One day we met for lunch at one of George Wahl's favorite Lake of the Woods spots. We added some Eagle Tails to the memorial that has been placed on the island.

a routine of rising early, heading out for fishing hard, and sharing many fish stories and George Wahl stories of years gone by (way too many to mention).

In the middle of the week we chose to meet and share lunch at one of George's favorite fishing spots – 7th & Hennepin (where the big girls are). A memorial has been placed on an island overlooking the spot. We enjoyed lunch, shared some stories and installed a couple more Eagle Tail lures on the Memorial Tree.

Shore lunch was a social favorite of George's and we kept up the tradition on a couple of days. The Old Fart proved to be the "Pike King" providing us pike for the traditional meal.

Whitefish Bay Camp's modified American plan meant we were able to get out and search for muskies all day and come home to a fantastic home cooked meal. They fed us like we were headed to the gallows!! The quality and quantity of the dinners was exceptional. After finishing

dinner plus dessert, it made our attempts for sunset muskies difficult.

George always preached that the true message is the anticipation of the hunt and time spent with friends. That's what it's all about. Catching the muskie is secondary! And that's what this trip was to me. More memories made with the laughter and camaraderie have been added to the many years George pioneered.

George stayed at Whitefish Bay Camp on his many trips to the lake and I can see why. Camp owners Bob and Peg Hunger's hospitality made a fishing trip into a Memorable Canadian Experience!

Thanks to my fishing partner Mike Walsh, to Paul and the Old Fart for joining us, to the Twin Cities chapter for having the tournament, and a special thank you to camp owners Bob and Peg Hunger who generously donate this trip.

Do yourself a favor and add a trip to Whitefish Bay Camp to your "Bucket List".

Swap Meet in December

Don't be so quick to put away all your lures, rods, reels and other paraphernalia when the season ends. Save out all those unused or barely used items and bring them to our December chapter meeting.

We will be holding a swap meet. It might be the day to treat yourself to something new or find a present for someone on your list. Holiday treats and snacks will be provided.

Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

November 1st is upon us and we have only had a handful of hours with the temperature below freezing. Consider yourselves lucky! Or are you? There are many of us musky hunters that wait all year for that mercury to drop like a rock out the bottom of the thermometer. Yet there are others that love this gradual decline in the temp with more sunny days than overcast ones.

So what's the answer? Are we lucky that we've had the weather that we have had or unfortunate?

That is the beauty of chasing these fish, no two seasons are exactly the same. There are hundreds of patterns to catch these fish throughout the season and you never know which ones will hold for a day, week, or even a month. We have no control over what Mother Nature throws at us. The only things we can control are our attitude, focus, and time on the water.

For some of us it has been a great season, for others it has been one to forget. Either way, there are 30 days of muskie fishing left and all it takes is that one fish to make your season.

Here are the current standings of those who have had the best of it:

JUNIORS

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Lilly Hartman	20	1	46"
2ND	John Portesan	13	1	39"

WOMEN'S

1ST	Barbara Dull	36	2	44.5"
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WOMEN'S MASTERS

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	178	13	51"
2ND	Linda Knutson	87	5	48"

MEN'S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Cory DeZeeuw	304	18	50.5"
2ND	Gary Woods III	221	16	47.5"
3RD	Tom Kenefick	178	13	50.5
4TH	Phil Groth	151	10	53"
5TH	Tom Batina	121	9	49"
6TH	John C Newman Jr	117	10	50"
7TH	Peter Janik	87	5	54.5"
8TH	Eric Bakke	77	6	49"
9TH	Alexander McLean	72	4	48"
10TH	Dustin Forschen	46	4	41"

MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Dave Knutson	170	11	47"
2ND	David Gustafson	167	11	51.5"
3RD	Mark Fredrick	137	10	50"
4TH	Brian Hanson	135	8	50"
5TH	Brent Hirsch	120	10	45.5"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

APRIL	Matt Olson - 43" - 4/26/2014 - Clear Lake, IA
JUNE	David Gustafson - 51.5" - 6/9/2014 - Lake Minnetonka, MN
JULY	Official - Peter Janik - 54.5" - 7/13/2014 - Lake Minnetonka, MN
AUGUST	Unofficial - Cindy Hegdahl - 51" - 8/5/2014 - Lake Bemidji, MN
SEPT	Unofficial - Phil Groth - 53" - 9/21/2014 - Rainy Lake, ON
OCT	Unofficial - Tom Kenefick - 50.5" - 10/17/2014 - Lake of the Woods, ON

As we reach the end of our season, remember no matter what the weather is like, be sure to check out the conditions before hitting the water and prepare accordingly. No fish, no matter how big is, is worth your life, so be safe and keep a tight line!

Look for the Yellow Tag!

When fishing Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake, be looking for fish in 18-45 inch range to have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin. These fish were stocked by our chapter and the DNR and are part of a DNR study to determine if it is more effective and efficient to stock yearling muskies or fingerling muskies.

If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, record the number on the tag. You might need to scrape off some lake scum to be able to read the number.

The DNR needs the data about that 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. You will be asked 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. An important part of the study is data on the re-catchability of fish.



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.

Special Fishing Night on Lake Harriet!

from Josh Borovsky

As you may already know, the boat access hours on the Minneapolis city lakes have become more and more restrictive over the past two years. Beginning this November, the landing will be closed and locked with a chain and padlock each day at 5:00 pm. Whether you fish these lakes or not, this issue affects all of us as it sets the precedent that it is acceptable to restrict the public's access to water that is also supposed to be public.

On Friday, November 21 the Minneapolis Parks are offering a special fishing night on Lake Harriet in which they are allowing boats to fish until 10:00 pm. This is a test/pilot event and it is my understanding that future events and boat access hours may be determined by the number that show up on the twenty-first.

In my opinion, they are purposely doing this at the end of the season so that nobody shows up and they can use it as an argument to be more restrictive with ramp hours if nobody shows up.

Let's surprise them! I would like to see as many boats as possible show up for this.

Just a point worth noting: I have fished all over muskie-land in my travels over the years and would say night fishing in the late fall (especially on the city lakes) is probably the best pattern I have come across in terms angling hours per muskie. Some years, the average has been less than an hour per muskie, which is outstanding.

Hope to see you all there.

Chapter Summer Fishing League



This 44-inch muskie caught by Mike Renstrom at the Summer League's outing on Lake Independence was the biggest fish turned in during the Summer League season.

from Nic Romero, Chapter Summer Fishing League Chair

Congratulations to Greg Kappes this year's winner of the Twin Cities chapter members only summer fishing league. He participated in six league outings and was able to boat two 30-inch fish and a 38-incher on three different lakes, three events in a row. Could be our new Mr. Consistency!?!?!?

Several others participated this summer, including: Eric Schultz, Matt Olson, John Newman, "DUG" Malsom, Mike Renstrom, Greg Ide, Ron Sanders and Nic Romero.

The chapter Mini-Challenge took

place in July with the North Metro was a great event with 13 fisherman participating from both leagues. Our chapter picked up the tab for pizza since we were out-fished – at least on paper. Chris Nolan from North Metro caught a 47-inch muskie on Bald Eagle while his event partner, Greg Kappes, pulled in a 30-incher!

Some other notes from this summer include a 38" caught by Eric Schultz on Forest Lake, and a 44" by Mike Renstrom on Independence.

The Summer Fishing League is intended as a fun outing with other chapter members. We'd like to see more people come out next year.

2014 LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS

	WBL/ B Eagle 14-Jun	Waconia Forest 19-Jun	Forest 25-Jun	WBL/ B Eagle 08-Jul	Mtka 23-Jul	WBL 6-Aug	Mtka 20-Aug	Indy 27-Aug	Forest 17-Sep	Waconia/ WBL 27-Sep	Total Points
Greg Kappes				12	17	9	5	5	5		53
Eric Schultz	5		5	5	5	5			17	5	47
John Newman				5	5	5	5	8	5		33
Matt Olson					8	8	5	5	5		31
Doug "DUG" Malsom				5	5	5	5		5		25
Mike Renstrom								23			23
Greg Ide				5	5						10
Nic Romero				5							5
Ron Sanders					5						5

Lilly's First Muskie

from Paul Hartman

My two daughters and I had just started our annual kayaking/back country camping trip on Kakagi Lake near Nestor Falls in Ontario. We had only paddled a couple hundred yards from the dock at Muskie Bay Resort. On 6-year-old Lilly's first cast over a weed bed in 10 feet of water, she hooked up with a muskie.

It was hard to be of any assistance to Lilly during the battle as the kayak was fully loaded with camping gear, the two of us and our dog, making maneuvering around in the boat impossible. Gracie, my 8-year-old daughter was tied to the back of our boat with her kayak, making it necessary to keep the fish from circling around our boat and tangling in the rope! Lilly did a great job fighting the fish, and even unhooked the line as it became wrapped under one of the rivets on the boat during some boat-side thrashing.

It was a spectacular fight with several great jumps, numerous strong runs and lots of excitement. It took about 4 minutes to fight the fish, grab it and get the lure twisted out of the corner of its mouth.

The fish was caught on #14 test line on a spinning rod with a gold and purple Rizzo Wizz. It was 46 inches long. Lilly is 46 inches as well.



6-year-old Lilly Hartman's first muskie was caught during a kayaking trip in Ontario on #14 test line on a spinning rod with a gold and purple Rizzo Wizz. It was 46-inches long. Lilly is 46 inches as well.

Lilly's only regret was that she wanted to keep the fish as a "pet" to guide us along on our adventure into the back country.

We were lucky to have Kevin Zollinger and his 7-year-old son Mack in a another kayak with us to snap a few pictures of the exciting catch. Mack ended up loosing a similar size muskie after bringing it to their kayak a couple times on the final cast of the trip – just 100 yards from the Muskie Bay Resort dock.

Muskies were a great start and end to our 3-day trip for the "little people"!

Winterizing My Boat

from Greg Ide

To winterize my Lund with year 2000 Mercury 4-stroke (Yamaha powerhead-4 carbs), I do the following: Loosen spark plugs about 1/4 turn and re-tighten, to be sure they are not frozen in place when eventual replacement is needed. Remove the propeller, check for fishing line, re-grease the shaft and re-assemble. I use a bent screwdriver for bending tabs of the Mercury propeller lock. I check Bearing Buddy covers for cracks or tears, and check the electrical ties around Bearing Buddy covers. (I never grease my hubs. I used to do that and it led to bearing failure.) Fill gas tank with ethanol-free gas, and add more StaBil. Take the electric trolling motor and graphs indoors. Put a new plastic tarp over the boat cover as I store boat outdoors and it is easier to push snow off the plastic tarp. Most winters I do not re-charge the batteries in middle of



winter, but last winter I did because it was so cold, and I was worried a discharged battery could crack.

I attended Fred's Shed seminars at the Boat Show and Sportshow, and they suggest a more complete winterization. They feel fogging 2-stroke cylinders is a bad idea, especially if the engine is fuel injected. They recommend running a commercial "pickling" solution into the engine as its prep for winter. They suggest an oil and filter change every fall for 4-strokes, and said never to use automobile oil on a 4-stroke engine. They claim automotive or aftermarket oil is not designed for continuous use at 5000+ rpm.



Fred's Shed also suggested checking the lower unit oil for water contamination by removing the lower screw, and loosening the upper screw to get a gear oil sample. Milky appearance indicates water contamination,

burnt smell indicates imminent gear failure.

Note that cracks in the housing or a failed seal will put an oil slick at the rear of the boat. In a sense, you are checking the lower unit for leaks every time you put the boat in the water if you look for the slick.

The mechanics at the Fred's Shed seminars strongly recommend occasionally adding Ring-free Plus (or the similar product for your brand of engine) to gasoline to clean the fuel system and prevent carbon build-up in engine. They recommend a ten micron fuel filter, and a water separator in the fuel line.

Requests Being Accepted for 2015 Hugh C. Becker Grants

Initial Requisition Criteria for Disbursing Funds, Subject to Future Amendments:

All requests are to be received between 1 November 2014 and by 31 January 2015. Address (do not e-mail) all requests to Hugh C. Becker Committee of Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., c/o George Selcke, 13004 Shady Dale Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343-4904.

Format: Requests are not to be more than five (5) legibly typed pages, ORIGINAL and FIVE (5) copies, to include all the following criteria:

- 1) Name and address of the group, and a history of the group's accomplished projects to date, if applicable.
- 2) Demonstrate need - how will this project benefit the Muskellunge program(s) in area, region, or range (Canada included).
- 3) What is the project and what is purpose of project?
- 4) Where is this project taking place?
- 5) What is the duration of this project - start and finish dates?
- 6) What are the cost breakouts? Itemize equipment and labor, and provide quotes.
- 7) Who will be involved: the project team, project manager/coordinator, and applicable means of contact

(phone numbers).

- 8) Submit "milestones" dates for progress reports and accountability.
- 9) Can the requesting group match funds from another source? Please list.

Other Considerations:

- Cap on any individual grant/fund will be \$10,000; incrementally within year or over the course of years, unless the Grant Committee decides otherwise on any specific proposal.
- Credit to the Hugh C. Becker Trust Foundation will be incurred in funding.
- The Hugh C. Becker has priority rights to all press releases and publications.
- If this project fails to reach its purpose, through false reporting, deceit, and/or other unprofessional acts, the requesting group may be responsible for restitution (committee determination).
- NOTE: No indirect costs (overhead) will be awarded on research proposals

Addendum:

Like projects/activities that may qualify per the wishes and conditions of Hugh C. Becker include, but are not limited to:

- Muskie propagation by the Twin Cities Chapter #1, in their own ponds (?) with their own equipment.
- Stocking, by either raising muskie fingerlings or purchasing fingerlings/yearlings/adults for public use in designated waters.
- Habitat protection and improvement.
- Clean water (quality) protection and improvement.
- Professional research by qualified personnel (not limited to Minnesota, but must include accountable data).
- Expansion of the present muskellunge range (special consideration for the Missouri river system in North/South Dakota).

The Twin Cities Chapter #1 Committee will consider projects based on their respective merits per criteria above, and awards will be published in the *Muskie* magazine. The principles of Muskies Inc. - Youth, Research, and Fisheries - are guidelines inclusive in qualifying and evaluating proposals.

NOTE: Accountability reports, DNR letters, research papers, publications, university acknowledgements, and any other follow-up information for awards given in a particular year will be required before any individual or group is given consideration for future grants.

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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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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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