

On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 8

AUGUST 2014

George Wahl Tournament September 27



Mitch Carlson caught the biggest fish in the 2013 George Wahl Memorial Tournament, a 52-inch from Lake Waconia. Having the day's newspaper in the photo of the fish is a requirement of the tournament.

Participating in the George Wahl Memorial Tournament is a good way to ensure that the quality of our local fishery will continue for years to come. This tournament is unique in that 100 percent of the proceeds go toward the metro-area muskie fishery.

The 6th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament will be Saturday, September 27. Anglers have their choice of 12 metro-area lakes. Fishing is from 7 am to 7 pm. An awards program with feed at Thorne Bros. will follow.

You can register for the tournament in person at Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle, Joes's Sporting Goods, and Thorne Bros. through Friday, September 26. You can also register online at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org through September 20. Entry is \$50.

Grand Prize is a trip for 4 to Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the

Woods and \$1000. Every person who registers a muskie is eligible for the drawing. Prizes, including a Thorne Bros. Gift Certificate and a commemorative Phantom are awarded through 10th place. The first 5 places also win \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100 cash.

George Wahl was the inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail lure who passed away in 2008. The tournament was conceived as a way to honor George's love of muskies and muskie fishing, his contribution to the muskie fishing industry, his generosity sharing information with others, and his encouragement to muskie anglers.

If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part to make sure that local fishing remains at the level it is now. Participate in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament.

Frank Schneider Tournament is Weekend after Labor Day

Register a muskie in the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament and you could go home with a new Triton boat/motor/trailer package. The tournament will be held on 20 lakes in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Leech-Winnibigoshish-Longville area of northern Minnesota September 5, 6 and 7.

Every person who registers a muskie in the tournament is in the grand prize drawing. Many years a 40-inch muskie earned a participant the grand prize. Prizes are awarded through tenth place and for three places for juniors. First place winner will get a week-long trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. A ladies cash bonus and Abu Garcia cash will be awarded.

Everyone has the opportunity to win Canadian and US resort stays, rods, reels, tackle boxes, and a multitude of other items at the feeds and awards. The Awards program will be at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center on Sunday.

Register at Reed's in Walker and One Stop in Longville. Entry after Labor Day is \$100 for adults, \$30 for juniors and \$175 for a family package.

Get your friends/family together and make plans to spend a weekend fishing and doing some good for the chapter and the muskie fishery.

From Our President

We have started the move toward fall fishing. Notable events are being completed on the calendar. The State Fair, the opening of school, and the George Wahl and Frank Schneider Memorial Tournaments are all happening.

As you start to enter the cooler water season of biting muskies, reflect on the first half of your season: how are you and your equipment holding up? Did you accomplish your planned goals? Did you fish with some new people?

To be able to have a great metro muskie fishery, we need to be more than a fishing club. I understand that some people do not want to get involved, but without people getting involved, there would not be a metro muskie fishery. Find a way to increase your involvement.

The easiest and best way to help is to get one new person to sign up for membership in our chapter. If everyone would do that, we would double our membership and greatly increase our political clout.

The cost of one muskie yearling is about the same as a one-year membership. While the membership fee goes to the national organization, the real value is you, the individual! You bring the knowledge, skills, and abilities that allow us to fulfill and exceed the three basic tenets of Muskies Inc: Fisheries, Research, and Youth.

Thanks to our membership for their involvement and we hope to see you at one or both of our chapter's tournaments this month!

Be safe and have fun on the water!

TOM KEITH

Chapter Summer Fishing League

from Nic Romero, Chapter Fishing League Chair

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.

Gregg Kappes has taken the lead with fish caught three weeks in a row. Eric Schultz continues to get points for showing up. Maybe Matt Olson has found his niche as a net man for Greg. Next outing is on Forest Lake on September 17.

2014 LEAGUE 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					38
Eric Schultz	5		5	5	5	5					25
Matt Olson					8	8					16
John Newman				5	5	5					15
Doug "DUG" Malsom				5	5	5					15
Greg Ide				5	5						10
Nic Romero				5							5
Ron Sanders					5						5

Red Wing Lodge 2014 Muskie Inc. Outing in the Books

During the annual outing August 9-16, 25 anglers from the North Metro and Twin Cities chapters once again enjoyed Bartlett family hospitality. Mike and Anne Bartlett, along with daughters Molly and Kate, and son Matt, went all out again preparing for and hosting Muskie Inc. fishermen, again exhibiting the fun and solid service with which the family has built and maintained its strong reputation in the business.

54 muskies were caught and released by our Muskie Inc. group. Matt Hotchkiss took big fish honors with a 49 inch released muskie. Matt will have his name engraved on the Big Fish plaque.

Red Wing Lodge fishermen had a very good week August 9-16! In addition to our 54 muskies, the other guests in camp added 62 additional releases, ringing in 116 total muskies caught and released by Red Wing Lodge guests during that week. 116 releases is a testament to the resource as well as to the determination and expertise of Red Wing guests.

As usual, stories, jokes and good-natured ribbing were enjoyed by all, but the stats on these were not officially recorded, and that includes the stories shared on the Lodge deck during the annual Sunday night bull session.

Keep an eye out for our detailed fall invitation that will officially begin the sign-up period for the 2015 Red Wing Lodge outing. The dates for next year's outing will be August 8-15. Don't just wish, make it happen.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving our Red Wing trip, please contact:

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(651) 699-5172
maxjo@mac.com

or Pat Miller
(651) 429-1629
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Release – How Good Is Yours?

By Peter Janik Twin Cities Muskies, Inc and DHC member

As muskie anglers we should do all we can to safely release our magnificent quarry after a lucky catch. Much has been written about being prepared to successfully release a muskie after netting a fish.

Having a large net, assortment of piers, hook outs, heavy duty hook cutters, hook pick, and jaw spreader at the ready are all a must. All tools should be within easy reach if they are needed to remove the hooks quickly and efficiently with safety of both the angler and muskie in mind. After the hooks are removed from fish and net, the next phase takes place – getting a great picture. Where in lies another tool, not to aid in the mechanics of the release, but to determine how good we are at what is ultimately important to the survival of the muskie during the release – time out of the water.

That tool is your camera or video recorder. Before taking a fish out of the net turn the camera on. In my boat the camera is mounted on the boat dashboard pointed to the back of the boat. It is set to continually take a series of pictures every 2 seconds until it's turned off. This allows hands-off freedom to get a memorable picture alone or together with a

fishing partner and also creates a means to determine the time out of water for the release.

To determine time out of the water simply count the number of pictures taken from the time of lifting the muskie out of the net until the fish is released back into the water. Then multiply by the time between each picture being taken, in my case, 2 seconds. The series of pictures shown provides the basic example.

During the past 4 years I have gone back on numerous catches to analyze the release time out of the water. The results, less than 30 seconds!!!!

Remembering published research, the recommended time out of water is no more than 90 seconds. Achieving one third of the recommended time is pretty good and serves as a good example of what anglers can achieve.

Short out of the water release time means healthy fish released to grow larger for the next lucky angler to catch.

Next time you make that lucky catch go back over your pictures and determine your release time out of water. If it's more than 90 seconds, work to reduce the time. The shorter the better. The future of good muskie fishing depends on it.

Good Fishin' und Petri Heil.



Muskie in net, camera on, great shot!!!



Picture 1, time = 0 seconds. Lifting muskie out of net. (nice Loon in background).



Picture 7, time = 14 seconds. Ideal shot. Fishing partner Sage, net nearly hitting head.



Picture 10, time = 20 seconds. Measure muskie. Length 44 inches.



Picture 12, time = 24 seconds. Placing muskie back in water.



Picture 14, time = 28 seconds. See ya again when you are 50+ inches!

Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Think our stocking efforts haven't been working? Member Peter Janik took the Lunker of the Month award with a 54.5 out of Lake Minnetonka! Get out on that lake and go fishing, you have a real chance at a giant.

Half way through the season and we have exactly 100 fish registered so far from our chapter. We are still looking for our first entry in the Women's and Juniors divisions, so grab your spouse or child and get on the water!

The warm water temps are still here and we have had some storms pop up out of nowhere, so please be safe when heading out and check your weather maps before you go. The beautiful thing about Minnesota lakes after Labor Day are the lack of boat traffic once school starts. No better time than the present to get out there.

The standings so far:

WOMEN'S MASTERS

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Linda Knutson	72	4	48"
2ND	Cindy Hegdahl	16	2	35"

MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Cory DeZeeuw	156	10	46"
2ND	Tom Batina	121	9	49"
3RD	Gary Woods III	90	7	47.5"



Peter Janik with his 54.5-inch Lake Minnetonka muskie, the longest registered so far this year for the chapter.

MEN'S MASTERS continued

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
4TH	Eric Bakke	77	6	49"
5TH	Peter Janik	75	4	54.5"
6TH	Alexander McLean	72	4	48"
7TH	Tom Kenefick	69	6	41"
8TH	Matt Olson	31	2	43"
9TH	John C Newman Jr	29	2	42"
10TH	Jim Doyle	28	1	53.5"

MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Erik Chrissis	9	1	35"
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MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	David Gustafson	102	6	51.5"
2ND	Brent Hirsch	75	6	40.5"
3RD	Dave Knutson	88	6	47"

MEN'S MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Brian Hanson	13	1	39"
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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 Unofficial - Peter Janik - 54.5" - 7/13/2014 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

AUGUST Unofficial - Tom Batina - 49" - 8/5/2014 - Lake of the Woods, ON

If there are any discrepancies or changes that need to be made with any duplicate fish or incorrect information in your submissions 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. Thanks again to everyone for your participation. See you On the Water!

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Erik Jacobson has caught over 50 muskies larger than 50 inches. He is the co-author of the "Just Big Muskies" video series. Erik's dramatic video of his son David's 57-inch Mille Lacs muskie was presented to Minnesota legislators, and was instrumental in passage of the bill to increase the minimum size of muskies to 54 inches.

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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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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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.

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