

# On the Water



Volume 18, Issue 8

AUGUST 2015



Jon Meyer with his White Bear Lake muskie that was won of two caught by our chapter to with the Mini-Challenge with the North Metro chapter.

## Represent the Twin Cities Chapter in the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge

Teams from Muskies Inc. chapters throughout the country will be gathering at Leech Lake the week of August 25-28 for the 2015 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge. The Challenge is being hosted by the Fargo-Moorhead chapter this year as they were the winners of last year's Challenge.

Each team can have up to 6 people. Teams can choose to fish either Leech Lake or the lakes in the Longville area. We could use a few more people to fill out our teams at the Challenge. Any chapter member can join the teams.

The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday August 26-28, but most participants come for the entire week to pre-fish. We already have a cabin reserved for our teams.

John Newman is heading up our Challenge teams this year. Contact him at [john.newman47@gmail.com](mailto:john.newman47@gmail.com) or 651-592-9257 if you're interested in representing our chapter.

## Twin Cities Chapter Wins Mini-Challenge

The Mini-Challenge with the Twin Cities chapter and the North Metro chapter held July 14 on White Bear Lake and Bald Eagle Lake. The Mini-Challenge was won by our chapter thanks to the efforts of Jon Meyer who boated a 44-incher on white Bear Lake and Steve Smythe with a 38-incher from Bald Eagle. Way to go guys!!

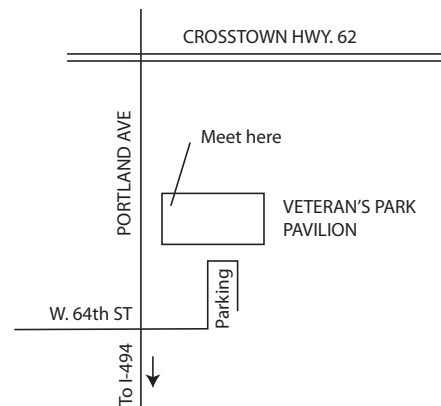
Participants from both chapters met after fishing at Rudy's Red Eye Grill with the Twin Cities chapter enjoying munchies courtesy on the North Metro chapter.

## Annual Summer Picnic August 11

The chapter's August meeting, our annual summer picnic, will be held this year at the Veteran's Memorial Park pavilion in Richfield. It is conveniently located just 2 blocks south of the Portland Avenue exit off of the 62 Crosstown Highway.

The chapter will provide brats, burgers, buns, beverages and plates and silverware. Please bring a side dish or dessert dish to share.

Veteran's Park has free parking at the pavilion and more parking at the adjacent ice arena/pool. There are hiking trails and a miniature golf course for the kids. So, plan on seeing us there and bring the whole family.



## From Our President

*This September our chapter will be hosting the 48th Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie tournament. Make your plans to be part of this event. Whether you fish or volunteer to work, your participation is important.*

*NOTE if you are fishing in this year's event be aware that there are rule changes! Please do not wait until the last minute to sign up.*

*This month's meeting is our annual summer picnic, this year we are at a new location. It will be held at Veterans Park in Richfield, starting at 6pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there!*

*Seven months and counting until the we celebrate at the Muskies Inc. 50th Anniversary Banquet. Our chapter, along with the North Metro chapter, will be hosting the national board meeting and the celebration banquet. Save the date of March 12th 2016! We hope you will consider participating, either as an attendee or a volunteer, or both.*

*Our next meeting at Knights of Columbus hall will be September 8th.*

*Tight lines*

*ERIC SCHULTZ*



**Jack Fietek and Joe Pugsley representing Staples/Motley High School netted the only muskie boated during the state High School Muskie tournament on Lake Vermilion, a 53 inch beauty.**

## 2015 High School Tournament

*from Mike Riha, Director Minnesota State HS Muskie Tournament*

Minnesota's Muskie Inc Chapters in conjunction with the Hugh Becker Foundation sponsored the 6th annual High School Muskie Tournament on Friday, June 26th, 2015. Twenty two kids grades 9-12 from around the state, who had qualified via sectional tournaments, participated in trying their luck in catching, measuring, photographing, and releasing muskies in an attempt to become the state champion. Going out in teams of two per boat they tried their skills and stamina for a day of muskie fishing hoping to catch the biggest fish.

Lake Vermilion is huge, and so are the muskies in the lake. The weather was hot, with very little wind—not what a muskie fisherman is looking for in hopes of catching a fish. Boaters left the docks at Vermilion Dam Lodge at 6:30 am after final instructions.

In some of the previous year's state competitions, champions were determined by the largest northern caught as no muskies were caught. But that was not the case in 2015. The team of Jack Fietek and Joe Pugsley representing Staples/Motley High School netted the only muskie of the day and it was trophy caliber. A 53 inch beautiful state champion fish for Jack and Joe. As state champions they each received State Champion plaques and each got a 9 foot St. Croix Big Nasty muskie rod.

Second place went to the Fergus Falls team of Kyler Peterson and Joe Mattson with a 39 inch northern pike. Alex Jenko and Riley Jenko from Duluth Denfeld claimed third with 29 and 25 inch northern, with 4th place going to Brayden Snow and Christian Donovan representing Watertown-Mayer HS.

All participants received a commemorative T-shirt, a great meal put on by the Ed Tausk and the staff of Vermilion Dam Lodge which was the tournament headquarters, and muskie baits donated from the Twin Cities and North Metro Chapters of Muskies Inc, Dennis Lappen of Muskie Innovations, and Big Mama Lures who sold us 20 baits at cost.

Thanks go to all judge boat participants, Mike Riha, Steve Wernersbach, Terry Schar, Mark Weiss, Nick Poppler, Steve Sorgenfrei, and Brian Klobe. With their participation we covered approximately 20 miles of water in an attempt to keep things safe for kids if there was a problem.

# Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

One third of the way through the season and we have just over 70 fish registered so far from our chapter. Six over 50 inches and three have been over 55 inches from our pride and joy, 'Tonka! We are still looking for our first Junior entry, so grab your child and get on the water!

The warm water temps are starting to show up, so please be sure to fish responsibly as we move into August. If the water is over 80 degrees be very careful of how you handle the fish and try to keep them in the water at all times, forgoing a picture. It is never worth the fish's life to have the traditional out-of-water horizontal hold, no matter what the size of the fish.

Time to get off my soap box and go fishing myself!  
Standings so far:

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Heather Woods	17	1	43"

## MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Eric Bakke	156	11	48"
2ND	Erik Chrissis	103	8	49"
3RD	John C Newman Jr	101	7	51"
4TH	Gary Woods III	85	7	51"
5TH	Alexander McLean	63	4	47"
6TH	John Harazin	59	4	48"
7TH	Matt McDonald	41	2	50"
8TH	Brent Fox	30	1	56"
9TH	Pat McAllister	25	1	51"
10TH	Tom Kenefick	25	2	43"

## MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Alexander McLean	14	1	40"
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## MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Marko Brinette	204	10	55.5"
2nd	David Gustafson	83	4	55"
3rd	Dave Knutson	29	2	40.5"

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

**MAY** - Unofficial - Alexander McLean - 47" - 5/24/2015 - St. Croix River, WI

**JUNE** - Unofficial - Brent Fox - 56" - 6/13/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

**JULY** - Unofficial - Marko Brinette - 55.5" - 7/5/2015 - 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!



## 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](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.

## Facebook Trivia Contest

Jim Kroupa is the lucky winner of the monthly Trivia contest on our Facebook page. To be part of the contest, go to the Facebook page and answer the posted trivia question.

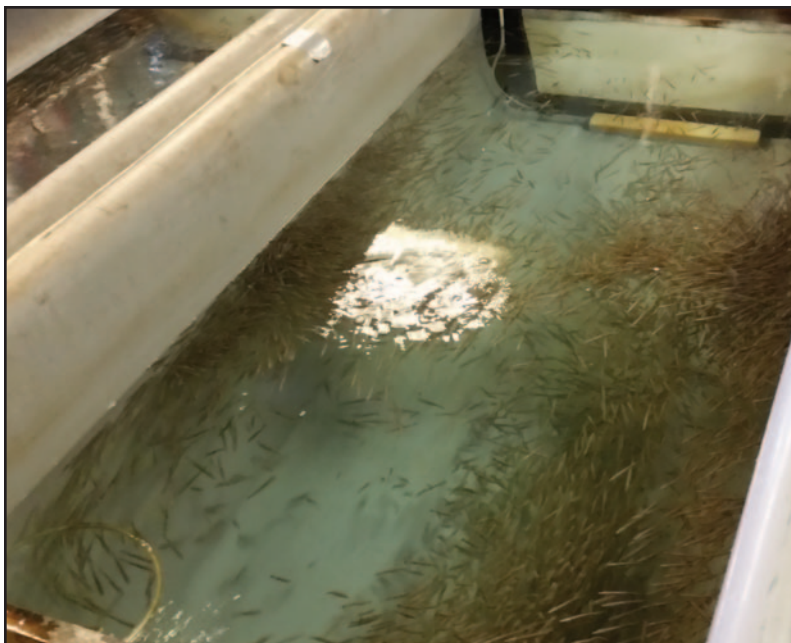


Everyone who emails the correct answer to the is entered in a drawing for a give-away prize. Submit your answer by EMAIL to [tcmi.fbcontest@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fbcontest@gmail.com). Please **DO NOT** post or share your answers in the comment section on Facebook. This will keep the correct answers to a minimum while increasing your chance of winning the prize. Good luck!

## Stocking and Rearing Update

This year things look a lot more promising for our abilities to stock fish in the metro lakes. Mother Nature cooperated much better this year and the egg take was more than ample. The state's hatcheries were able to hatch a good number of fry and supply not only their own ponds but also deliver a good number of fry to the private hatcheries. This means that we should be able to purchase the number of fish that we need to fulfill our obligations with the DNR and possibly even go further and help with other lakes as deemed necessary.

Our chapter also donated \$2,600 to the DNR for updating the east Metro hatchery hot water heating system. The Hugh Becker Fund helped with this project granting us \$2000 and the chapter kicked in an additional \$600 to help complete the project.



**Successful egg take has resulted in lots of baby muskies being raised to be available for stocking this fall.**

## Chapter Summer Fishing League

*from Greg Kappes, League Chair*

Matt Olson is still leading the chapter's Summer Fishing League with two fish - a 42- and 49-incher - caught at the Lake Calhoun/Lake Harriet outing. Steve Smythe is in second place with a 38-incher caught at the Mini-Challenge last month.

We had another fish that was caught but no photo on a board was submitted. Because of the prizes being offered this year, it is a must to have the picture on a board as it is the only way to verify catches.

There were a couple of blown chances from the Minnetonka event, but no fish were caught.

I have been posting chapter league information on Muskies First under the

club forum. I feel this can be a useful tool to post info such as partner needed or looking to fish with some one, or any other info you feel needed to share. So check it out, maybe this can improve or league through better communication.

The Summer Fishing League is a way to get more members out fishing and to enjoy each other's company. Everyone who fishes in the league will be entered in a drawing for a rod donated by DH Custom Rods. For every event you fish you will get a ticket in the drawing. If you fish all ten events, you will earn ten chances. If you only fish seven events, you will only get seven tickets in the drawing.

You can also choose to participate for cash prizes. The cash prizes will be

awarded to the top three finishers who have signed up to be eligible for them. A \$50 donation for the season to the chapter stocking and rearing fund is required to be eligible to receive one of the cash prizes. You can still sign up to fish for the cash prizes.

Muskies must be caught during the posted hours to be entered. A picture of the fish on a board and a picture of you holding the fish must be submitted by email to [tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com).

Only fish over 36 inches will earn points. Fish are measured to the nearest half inch and must be over for credit. Scoring is the standard Muskies Inc. method, a 36 inch fish is 10 points, a 38 inch fish would be 12 points and a 42-1/2 inch fish would be 16-1/2 points. Points are accumulated throughout the season.

Please let me know by email at [tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com) when you participate in any of the upcoming events so you are entered in the drawing for the rod.

If you have questions please email me or call me at 612-750-4641.

### 2015 Chapter Summer Fishing League Upcoming Outings

DATE	DAY	LAKE	TIME
August 13	Thursday	Lake Independence	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
September 17	Thursday	Lake Minnetonka	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
September 26	Saturday	George Wahl Tournament (any lake in tournament)	
October 11	Sunday	Eagle Lake	7:00 am - 12:00 pm

# Grand Prize for 2015 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Event is \$15,000 Cash

The 48th annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 11, 12 and 13 of September. The first "tournament" was organized by founder Gil Hamm in 1967. It was held on Cass Lake the weekend after Labor Day because most resorts reduced their rates after Labor Day.

Today that first tournament started by Gil Hamm 48 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 different locations across the tournament area give contestants 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.

The Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament is not a cut-throat, professional type event. It is considered more of a fishing get-together for many of the participants. Most of the people who fish in this event never participate in another tournament. They have made a tradition of getting together with friends or family each year. We have several family groups that started out many years ago with father and son and are now grandfather, father and grandson who continue the practice.

## New Regulations

Several changes have been introduced to Frank Schneider Muskie tournament this year. Because of the discovery of zebra mussels in Cass Lake last year, the MN DNR has instituted new regulations for the tournament anglers.

The DNR has designated 4 zones for tournament lakes. There will be no moving from zone to zone allowed. Whichever zone you choose to fish in,

you must stay in that zone throughout the tournament.

Every boat participating in the tournament must be inspected at an official inspection location before entering any tournament waters for the tournament or any pre-fishing. Because of the boat inspection requirement, it will benefit everyone to pre-register and not wait until Thursday before the tournament as they may not have time for a boat inspection as most location close at 5 pm.

## \$15,000 Grand Prize

The Grand Prize for the 2015 tournament will be \$15,000 cash. Every person who registers a muskie in the tournament will be entered in a drawing for the Grand Prize. Many years a person who was not close to the top in points but has had a 40" fish has been the Grand Prize winner. So, it may be advantageous to enter the tournament this year.

Prizes are awarded through tenth place and for three places for juniors based on a point system similar to our Members Only contest. Prizes include Abu Garcia rods and reels, Spiderwire line, and Sébile lures courtesy of our friends at Pure Fishing. First place winner will get a week-long trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods.

A cash bonus for the top 3 ladies of any age who register a muskie will be awarded courtesy of Daniel Smith, father of two muskie-fishing daughters. Bonus prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 product certificates will be given by Abu Garcia.

There will be ample opportunities for everyone to win Canadian and US resort stays, rods, reels, tackle boxes, and a multitude of other items with raffles and 100-square boards at the feeds both Friday and Saturday nights as well as at the Awards program on Sunday at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center.

## Pre-Register

Entry in the Frank Schneider tournament is \$95 for adults (\$100 after Labor Day), \$30 for junior contestants and \$175 for a family package. You can register in person through September 3 at Blue Ribbon (Oakdale), Joes's Sporting Goods and Thorne Bros. in the Twin Cities, or through Labor Day at Reed's in Walker and One Stop in Longville, or at the chapter website: [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org).

For those who are unable to get off work or school on Friday, there is a \$75 Saturday/Sunday option (\$25 juniors, \$150 family package). You must register on-line at the website to take advantage of the 2-day option.

## Tournament Benefits

Our chapter has been holding tournaments as a way to support all our stocking and other activities since its inception. The Frank Schneider tournament is the chapter's main fundraiser, providing funds for stocking efforts and all 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.

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 or family together and make plans to spend a weekend fishing and doing some good for the chapter and the muskie fishery.

Please contact Tournament Director, Eric Bakke, at [tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com) or 612-202-7169 for more information or to volunteer.

# Do Your Part for the Metro-area Muskie Fishery – Enter the George Wahl Memorial Tournament

The George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament is unique in that every penny made by the event goes toward the metro-area muskie fishery. The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 on 12 metro-area lakes: Minnetonka, Independence, Waconia, Eagle Lake (Henn. Cty.) White Bear, Bald Eagle, Forest, St. Croix (downstream of the Hwy 64 bridge in Stillwater to the Hwy 10 bridge in Prescott), Harriet, Calhoun, Cedar and Lake of the Isles.

The tournament was conceived as a way to honor George Wahl, long-time chapter member, an avid muskie angler and inventor of the Eagle Tail – one of the most popular muskie baits ever. We wanted to have a friendly competition that metro-area muskie anglers could participate in without having to drive to northern Minnesota. And, what

better way to give back to the muskie resource that we all enjoy so much?

The George Wahl tournament follows the Catch-Photo-Release format. When you catch a fish, take a photo - being sure to include Saturday's paper somewhere in the photo - and release it safely. Then, call in the information to tournament headquarters. Photo of the fish must be downloaded to complete the process. Tournament hours are from 7 am to 6 pm.

Tournament headquarters and the Awards program will be at Thorne Bros. A pork chop banquet for all contestants will be held prior to the program. There will be raffles and other opportunities for contestants to win items to take home.

Tournament standings are figured on a point system. 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.

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.

Register for the George Wahl tournament in person at Joe's, Blue Ribbon (both locations) and Thorne's through Friday, September 25. You can also register on line at our chapter website: [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org) through September 20. Entry for the tournament is \$50, a small price to pay to ensure that the quality of our local fishery will continue for years to come. If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Register for the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament.

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# next meeting

**AUGUST 11**

## **ANNUAL PICNIC Veteran's Memorial Park Richfield**

*The August annual summer picnic will be at the Veteran's Memorial Park pavilion in Richfield. Be there around 6 pm. The chapter will provide brats, burgers, buns, beverages and plates and silverware. Please bring a side dish or dessert dish to share.*

*Veteran's Park has free parking at the pavilion and more parking at the adjacent ice arena/pool. There are hiking trails and a miniature golf course for the kids. So, plan on seeing us there and bring the whole family.*



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### **Return Service Requested**

## **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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Carbone's Pizza	LeLure Lures	Ruff Tackle	Triton Boats
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Kevin Cochran Musky Guide Service	Mantrap Lodge on Big Mantrap Lake	Save A Memory	Vermilion Dam Lodge
Custom X	Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson	Bill Sherck	Wades Custom Tackle
Elk River Rods	Minneapolis Gun Club	Shimano	Wellman Sports Marketing
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Gary's Custom Rod & Reel	Musky Mayhem Tackle		



## 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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