

On the Water



Volume 18, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2015

Chapter's Annual Sportsman's Banquet

Our chapter's annual Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet is Saturday, March 28 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. The banquet, with over \$20,000 in prizes, helps fund our chapter's stocking and rearing goals as well as fund several other chapter functions.

You could leave the banquet with a fishing trip with a noted guide, a resort stay on a US or Canadian muskie lake, a new rod, reel, tackle box or gun, a custom painted one-of-a-kind lure, a print for your walls, or one of the many lures, tackle, storage or outdoor gear.

Raffle tables valued at more than \$1,000 each, plus cash raffles, games and a "mystery" raffle table will again be found at this year's event. In addition to all the raffles, games and auctions, we will present Peter Janik with a replica of his winning muskie for the Lunker of the Month in the chapter's Members Only contest. The chapter's Muskie Award will also be presented.

Dinner and raffle ticket bonus packages are available again this year. With a \$155 platinum package you get \$180 worth of muskie bucks and dinner – a \$215 value. A \$125 gold package includes \$90 worth of muskie bucks and dinner. Muskie bucks are used to purchase tickets at the raffle tables and enter some of the games. Dinner only is \$35. Seating is limited and will go fast, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Last day to make reservations is March 23.

If you purchase one of the bonus packages before March 6, you will qualify for early-bird drawings. Purchase of a platinum bonus qualifies you for drawings for a St. Croix muskie rod and an Abu Garcia NaCl reel. Purchase of a gold



bonus qualifies you for the drawing for the reel.

Invitations to the Sportsman's Banquet will be mailed. Use the order form from your invitation or in this newsletter and mail it in. Or, purchase on-line with a credit card or PayPal at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. Go to the Banquet tab, click on "Make your reservations now" and follow the prompts. You will be also able to pay for banquet reservations at the February and March meetings.

Events like this don't just happen. It takes a lot of people a lot of volunteer hours to make this work. The night of the banquet we will need 20-30 volunteers to help at the raffle tables and generally make sure things run smoothly. We will have a sign up sheet at the next chapter meetings or contact Eric Bakke at tcmi.sportsmansbanquet@gmail.com or 612-624-4859 to volunteer a little of your time that night.

And, don't forget to invite your friends. This is a fun night out whether a person is "into" muskie fishing or not.

Winter Picnic and Chapter Awards

Be sure to come to the chapter meeting on February 10 where we will honor the winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest. The evening will start off early at 6:30 with a "winter picnic" BBQ dinner. Following the meal, the top anglers of the year for our chapter will be honored. Be prepared to hear some good stories about the big ones. We hope to see all our members there.

Muskie Tale Award

We also hope to be presenting the Muskie Tale Award to a deserving person with the best "muskie tale" of the season. A muskie tale is not necessarily a "big fish" story. We hear enough of them. 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 that happened; or you found something interesting on the end of your line.

So far, we have not any muskie tale stories turned in. So get busy, put together your story and email it to Denise Olson at olson@3pete.com.

From Our President

Now that we are in mid-winter, enjoying life without casting to our favorite fish, use this time for planning trips, sharpening hooks, caring for your gear, purchasing or making the next thing that will improve your catch when the soft water season starts again.

If you find you have reels that are in need of cleaning or repair, send them to Richard Schmitz of Pimp My Rod & Reel at 90 Hillsman Lane, Seneca, IL 61360. Richard does an excellent job of reel repair. If you ship them to him now, he will deliver them to you at the Minnesota Muskie Expo where Pimp My Rod & Reel will have a booth.

Look for Richard's "Ten Commandments of Fishing Reels" in this issue of "On the Water".

Our chapter will be having a booth at the Northwest Sports Show March 25-29. Please consider volunteering to work a shift at the booth. We will especially need help Saturday, March 28 in the evening. Contact Greg Ide at 612-749-9399 if you can help out.

Remember our banquet is Saturday, March 28 at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington.

I hope to see you all at our February 10 Winter Picnic and Chapter Awards.

Until next time, ERIC SCHULTZ

Lure Assembly at February Meeting

from Tom Keith

During the February 10 meeting we are planning on putting together bucktails to be used at several summer events as part of our youth program. We are looking for volunteers to help with the assembly. All the components have been purchased, all the hooks have already been attached to the wires, and the flashabou has been wound on the coils, so it is strictly assembly. The only tools you would need to bring are ones to make the loops at the end of the wire.

Approximate 45 of these bucktails will be given to military kids at the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration that we sponsor in June. Approximately 20 double 7s will be used as prizes at the qualifier event for the High School Muskie tournament on Lake Minnetonka in June. Our chapter's Youth Director, Terry Schar will be running that event. We will also assemble 20 double 9s to be used as prizes for Mike Riha from the North Metro chapter who is organizing the Minnesota High School State Tournament final on Lake Vermilion later this June.

There are already two people who have volunteered to work on the bucktails, but I need three more to get this done in less than two hours at the meeting that night. If you would be willing to help, please contact me at 612-925-1109. Call me if you have any questions.

Save the Date for Vets Home Opener

Residents of the Minneapolis Veteran's Home will be treated to a Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 2. Our chapter annually co-sponsors this event with several VFW, American Legion, and AmVets Posts. A large, well-stocked trout pond will be set up and residents of the home can come down to the pond and spend the morning trout fishing. Volunteers help residents catch the fish, clean them, and prepare and serve a "shore lunch" of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans to the veterans.

If you don't attend any other chapter event, this one is well worth it. It's extremely rewarding to see our veterans who may never get the chance any other time during the year to come out and get some fishing in. This is one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country and has been recognized as such. Make plans to come out and help.

Muskie Award Nominations

The Muskie Award is presented each year at the chapter's Sportsman's Banquet to a deserving chapter member who has "constantly and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc."

The first Muskie Award was presented to Muskies Inc founder, Gil Hamm in 1974. At that time, our International umbrella had not yet been formed and the award recipient was chosen from among all Muskies Inc members, regardless of chapter affiliation. Once there were a number of chapters, it became too difficult to choose a recipient from the entire

organization and the Muskie Award was dropped. The Twin Cities chapter made the decision to continue the award for our chapter.

Nominations for the Muskie Award must be submitted in writing and include a history of the person's involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter. Send your nominations to Jim Kroupa at 6311 Steller Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331. Or email them to kroupaandsusan@gmail.com. Call Jim at 952-474-5967 if you have questions.

Nominations must be in by February 28. The winner will be selected by secret ballot by the Board of Directors.

Don't Miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo April 10, 11, 12



George's Minnesota Muskie Expo is scheduled for April 10, 11 and 12 at Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University in St. Paul. The Expo was founded nearly 20 years ago by George Wahl, inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail lure. The three-day event is dedicated to muskies and muskie fishing – featuring some of the world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great sale prices, as well as guides and resorts.

The unique aspect of the Expo is being able to buy direct from lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. Again this year, if you bring an Abu Garcia or Shimano reel, company reps will be available to help clean or repair one reel per person.

Fish-A-Thon will sponsor a large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids. At George's Tackle Box kids can make their own lures and take home \$30 worth of baits.

Seminars this year feature John Hoyer & Matt Siefert, Larry Dahlberg, and Luke Ronnestrand on Friday; Bob Mehsikomer, Rich Reinert, Ben Olsen and Gregg Thomas on Saturday; and Bob Benson & Dustin Carlson, Tony Rizzo and Mike Keyes on Sunday.

The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, from 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Entry to the Expo is the same as it was when the Expo first started. Adult entry for the Expo is \$10, a three-day pass is \$17. Expo information can be found online at: minnesotamuskieexpo.com.

Volunteer at George's Tackle Shop

George's Tackle shop is an area in the Minnesota Muskie Expo where kids are able to create their own muskie lure and take it home with them. Linda, Dave and Jeremy Knutson have manned this for the past few Expos. It's a busy place and they cannot do it alone. If you would be willing to help the kids put together their lures (all instruction provided to you), please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 or Dave Knutson at 651-455-9755 or 651-328-4622.

A "Muskie Tale" Worth Noting

Blue Ribbon Bait and Tackle currently has this story on their Facebook and web sites. Although the Howards are not chapter members and can't enter our "Muskie Tale" contest, it is a great "muskie tale". Keep thinking about things that happened this past season and tell us your own "muskie tale". We will present the Muskie Tale Award at the February meeting to the person with the best story.

Six-year-old Nathaniel Howard got tired of sitting in his ice house waiting for a fish to swim by. He'd caught a few sunfish, but wanted to check out some outside holes.

He went to the first hole outside the shack and immediately got a bite. It was this beautiful musky! Young Nathaniel fought the fish for 20 minutes! He hooked the big musky right on the lip and somehow got it through the hole. Dad quickly jumped in to assist, get a fast photo, and release the fish.

When dad asked him how he did it he said, "Yea, Dad, you just gotta keep switching holes."

What a catch kid! You set the bar high for Blue Ribbon waxies!



Photo courtesy of Tim Howard

2014 Stocking Report

Our chapter had planned one of our most aggressive stocking years for the 2014 season. We collaborated with the Minnesota DNR to stock 1300 muskies in White Bear Lake and 1300 in Lake St. Croix. Our chapter Board of Directors unanimously agreed to this plan. The cost of purchasing the fish to implement the plan was \$39,000. Profits from both the Frank Schneider and George Wahl tournaments, the Sportsman's Banquet and a \$9,000 grant from the Hugh C. Becker foundation provided the necessary dollars. Sadly, we were unable to do ANY stocking this fall.

There were no fish available to purchase. This was due mostly to the fact that Mother Nature handed us a very late spring. Because of that, the spring egg take wasn't very good. The private hatcheries were shorted on what they requested, receiving only about 30 to 40 percent of what they needed.

A second problem created by the late spring was a shortened growing season. The East Metro hatchery had new heaters thanks to a grant from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation. The heaters should have afforded them to keep the fry in the hatchery longer thus attaining a larger size and better survivability. Unfortunately, the fish still didn't grow to a large enough size over the summer for stocking. The end

result was there just weren't enough fish to go around.

Some of the DNR rearing ponds were successful and some lakes received fish, however the DNR fell about 60 percent short of their quotas this season. The private hatcheries had fish but they fell short of the 10-inch minimum that the DNR requires for stocking. These hatcheries are wintering over the smaller fish. The hope is that the fish will come through the winter successfully and the DNR will be able to purchase private hatchery fish to make up for some of their shortfalls.

If the private hatcheries have excess fish this spring after DNR purchases, then we will also be able to fill our obligations. Fish farming is always iffy due to so many variables. Stay tuned and hopefully we will be able to spend our \$39,000 and stock 2600 muskies.

Note: We are working closely with the DNR to try to help the egg take be more successful this coming spring. We have had meetings and everyone is concerned and on the same track to help make our state's stocking efforts more successful. It's never an easy task but hopefully by working together we can maintain and even enhance our muskie fishery.

Great Valentine's Gift: A Week at Lake of the Woods

That choice will go over very big when your honey unwraps that puppy with his or her muskie-filled imagination! Make it happen!

The annual joint Twin Cities/North Metro Red Wing Lodge Outing is scheduled for August 8-15, 2015. Last summer 25 fishermen enjoyed this trip, open to members of both chapters and their guests. This annual muskie trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip.

Save your surprises for muskie action, you don't need them at base camp. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort base that has been family owned and operated for more than 45 years.

The Bartlett family has hosted Muskie Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service, so they understand what muskie people need and like. Red Wing Lodge is a nine-time Chapter Challenge headquarters. Check out the muskie information, including the Red Wing Lodge Hall of

Fame, as well as the first live cam in Morson, at www.redwinglodge.net

The cost per person in housekeeping cabins will be \$350 (US Funds) for 2015, just \$50.00 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

Included in the full value of the 2015 Muskie Inc. trip:

- Free Dockage (\$72 value), Free Launch (both ways, \$25 value)
- Free Dinner one night, courtesy of the Bartletts
- One Free Trip, given away in drawing, courtesy of the Bartletts
- Free Wireless Internet Service throughout the Resort
- Free Daily Bag of Ice; door prizes

Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge. Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. They are on a first come, first served basis.

Early deposits are appreciated by the Bartletts, these funds are used to purchase materials for cabin improvements, most of which can only be made over the winter.

To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact:

John van Ingen
(651) 699-5172
maxjo@mac.com
2108 Palace Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

or

Pat Miller
(651) 429-1629
donnaopatmiller@gmail.com
1645 Ridgewood Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

For answers to detailed questions regarding the Lodge, e.g., about the cabins, you are invited to call Mike and Anne Bartlett toll free at 1-888-488-5601.

NOTE: Look for John and/or Pat at most of our chapter meetings with a display board of pictures from past Red Wing Lodge outings and lots of information about the trip.

— *this 'n that* —

10th Annual North Metro Banquet

An all-you-can-eat fish fry dinner will be held by the North Metro chapter on Saturday, February 28 at the Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625. With prizes totalling over \$17,000 it promises to be great fun. Every dinner ticket purchase will get an entry in the Grand Prize raffles for a 50 Inch 1080P LED HDTV and a full-day guide trip with Jason Hamernick during the 2015 season and a Shimano TranX reel. There will be additional raffles and games of chance as well as kids and adult activities.

Tickets are \$30 in advance (\$40 after February 14). Contact Mike Riha at 763-607-2800 or mwriha@aol.com to purchase in advance. They can also be purchased at the door. The Coon Rapids VFW is located at 1919 Coon Rapids Boulevard.

Contact Your Leadership

Email addresses have been set up for all of our chapter officers and committee chairpersons to make it easier for you to get specific questions answered. The new email addresses are listed on the inside back page under each officer's name.

Northwest Sports Show

Our chapter will have a booth at the Northwest Sports Show (March 25-29) again this year. The show hours are 1-9 pm Wednesday and Thursday, 11am-9pm Friday, 10am-9pm Saturday, and 10am-5pm on Sunday. We need volunteers to man our booth during those days. There will be 2 shifts each day. Volunteers will be able to get a pass into the show for free on the day(s) they work at the booth. The hardest time slots to fill are afternoons during

the week. If you can volunteer to work the booth, please contact Greg Ide at tcmi.speakers@gmail.com or 612-749-9399.

Print Your Muskies Inc. Member ID Cards

Remember that you will not be sent a Muskies Inc. membership card. Members can print their own ID cards at any time from the muskiesinc.org website.

To utilize this new process, log in to the Muskies Inc. website muskiesinc.org 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 and print your card. For family members, the family head can print the IDs for the entire family.

TWIN CITIES SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET RESERVATION ORDER

Saturday, March 28, 2015 – Minnesota Valley Country Club – Doors open at 5:00 pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLATINUM BONUS PACKAGE – \$155 (\$215 value) Includes dinner and \$180 in raffle tickets QTY _____ \$ _____
If purchased before March 6, will be entered in Early-Bird drawings for a St. Croix muskie rod and an Abu Garcia NaCl reel.

GOLD BONUS PACKAGE – \$105 (\$125 value) Includes dinner and \$90 in raffle tickets QTY _____ \$ _____
If purchased before March 6, will be entered in the Early-Bird drawing for an Abu Garcia NaCl reel.

Dinner Reservation Only (\$35 ea.) QTY _____ \$ _____

I cannot attend but would like to make a donation QTY _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

DINNER, RAFFLE TICKETS OR PACKAGES WILL NOT BE MAILED AND CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE DOOR.

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO MUSKIES INC. TO: Denise Olson, 7125 17th avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423

MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 23, 2015

The Ten Commandments of Fishing Reels

from Master Reelsmith Richard W Schmitz, Pimp My Rod & Reel

1. Back off the drag system of the reel at the end of each day of fishing. This will save the drag spring washers from taking a set.
2. Back off the cast control knob on the reel at the end of each day of fishing. This will keep the cast control fiber washers from dimpling.
3. Respool the line back on the reel at the end of the each day of fishing. Just let the line out in the water when you are running back to the dock at speed in the boat and rewind the line tight on the reel spool. If the line is loose on the spool the reel has a greater chance of backlashing.
4. Use your THUMB on the spool when casting and keep the cast control knob loose on the side of the reel. Do not tighten down the cast control knob to stop backlashes. Reset

- the spool brakes (see the owner's manual of the reel to setup the spool brakes). Also keep the side of the reel facing up when casting. This will help eliminate backlashes. Your wrist will have greater movement if you hold the reel side up.
5. Use your THUMB on the spool when you are ripping and jerking any baits. This will save the anti-reverse bearing.
6. Never engage the reel when the lure is in the air on a cast. Stop the spool with your THUMB first, then engage the reel. This will save the gears in the reel.
7. Use the drag system of the reel when fighting a fish. If you must push the spool release button to thumb the spool when fighting a fish, bend your knees first to release the pressure off the spool. By releasing the pressure off the spool of the reel you won't bend the

- clutch arm in most reels.
8. Spool bearings must be relubed after every forty hours of casting. Only 1-2 drops of any brand name fishing reel oil per spool bearing. I like Hot Sauce reel oil and grease.
9. The worm gear needs to be greased or oiled once a month. Use grease if the reel has a dis-engaging level wind system and oil if it is a non-disengaging levelwind system.
10. Clean your reel once a week with a small toothbrush to get all the dirt and weeds off the reel.

The 11th Commandment is unwritten. If your reel is making a funny noise, don't stick your reel in the water to make it stop squeaking – send it to Pimp Your Rod & Reel at 90 Hillsman Lane, Seneca, IL 61360 for a professional reel super tuning/pimping and cleaning.

Contact Richard at 708-514-7777 or richard.schmitz@sbcglobal.net

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next meeting

FEBRUARY 10

WINTER PICNIC AND MEMBERS ONLY AWARDS PROGRAM

A BBQ "Winter Picnic" will be served starting at 6:30 pm. The winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest will be honored at an awards program following the meal. Mark your calendars and bring the family. Hope to see you all there!

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.).



MUSKIES INC.
7125 17th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

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.

Abu Garcia	Hirsch's Ghosttails	Musky Mountain Lodge	Sunset Beach Resort and Campground – West Battle Lake
Advon Incorporated	Huddle's Resort	Naze Baits	Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake
Anchorage Inn	Joe's Sporting Goods	Northern Lights Casino	Sunset Lodge – Lake of the Woods
Beaver Baits	Just Encase	One Stop	Supernatural Big Baits
Bernick's Beverage	Jeremy Knutson	Palco	Tackle Industries
Big Mama Lures	Lakeview Inn	Pine Beach Resort and Campground	Third Street Brewhouse
Big Wood Musky Lures	Lakewood Products	Phantom Lures	Thorne Bros
Birch Villa Resort	LAX Reproductions	Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky	Temple Fork Outfitters
Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle	Leech Lake Gaming	Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods	Trappers Landing Lodge
Brave New Workshop	Chip Leer	Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters	Triton Boats
Broadwater Bay Resort	LeLure Lures	Dean Roll	Trophy Hunter
Cabela's	Llungen Lures	Sah-Kah-Tay Resort	Accessories – Glittertail Muskie Lures
Carbone's Pizza	Mantrap Lodge on Big Mantrap Lake	Save A Memory	Truax Guide Service
Cats Tails	Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson	Sébile	Bob Turgeon's Guide Service
Kevin Cochran Musky Guide Service	Minneapolis Gun Club	Bill Sherck	University of Minnesota – Gopher Sports
Columbia Sportswear	Minnesota Valley CC	Shimano	Vermilion Dam Lodge
Coot Lures	Moondance Events	'Skie Patrol – John Hoyer	Wades Custom Tackle
Custom X	Muskie Treat Baits	Sportsman's Connection	Whitefish Bay Camp
Elk River Rods	Musky Hunter Magazine	Spiderwire	
Evinrude Marine	Musky Innovations LLC	Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion	
Fenwick Rods	Musky Madness Guide Service – Kris Astorp	St. Croix Rods	
Fishing for Life	Musky Mafia Tackle	Stone's Throw Adventures – Corey Allen	
Fishing Hardcore – Ben Olsen	Musky Mayhem Tackle		
Frankie's Live Bait & Marine	Musky Mercenary Guide Service – Matt Seifert		
Gary's Custom Rod & Reel			
H30 Sunglasses			
Hayward Fly Fishing Co.			

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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