

On the Water



Congratulations to 7-year-old Olin Knutson who caught his first muskie – a 41-incher – on November 14 while fishing with his father, Jeremy, on Bald Eagle Lake. Share your pictures with us by sending to On the Water editor at olson@3pete.com.

Celebrate Muskies Inc.'s First 50 Years

Don't miss the Muskies, Inc. 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on the evening of March 12, 2016. Our chapter and the North Metro chapter will be hosting the banquet for all Muskies, Inc. members.

It promises to be a great event to have a good time and celebrate Muskies, Inc. A hospitality suite, games, raffles, and silent auction are all planned for the evening. Much Muskies Inc. memorabilia and pieces of our history will be on display all day.

The banquet is being held in conjunction with the Muskies, Inc. annual spring board meeting scheduled during the day on Saturday, and the 2016 Hugh C. Becker Muskie Symposium March 13-15. All three events will be at the Sheraton Minneapolis West.

Cost to attend the banquet is \$50 per person. The event will sell out so make your reservations early at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org/node/203. The hotel is holding a block of rooms until February 18, 2016 at a Muskies, Inc. group rate of \$89 double occupancy. Make room reservations at www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/muskies.

Join fellow Muskies, Inc. members in celebrating our first fifty years.

2016 Chapter Officers Elected

Elections for our chapter's Board of Directors and officers for 2016 were held at our December meeting. Elected to serve two-year terms on the Board of Directors starting January 1 were veterans Eric Bakke, Brad Coyne, Greg Ide, Jim Kroupa, Doug Malsom, Stu McIntosh, Jon Meyer, Terry Schar, Andy Wayt and newcomer Mike Darley.

Retiring from our board this year are Corey Dezeeuw and Tom Keith. We want to thank both of them for their service to our chapter.

Once the election for board members was done, officers were elected. Officers of the chapter must be members of the Board of Directors and serve one-year terms.

Officers of the chapter for 2016 are President, Eric Schultz; First Vice President, Eric Bakke; Second Vice President, Peter Janik; Treasurer, Andy Wayt; Secretary, Jim Doyle; Regional Vice President, Jon Meyers.

The chapter Board of Directors meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus. There are still a few open spots on the Board. The Board needs people who are interested and willing to participate in the chapter and its future. If you want to be more involved contact President Eric Schultz (651-917-8272, tcmi.president@gmail.com or eschultz33@comcast.net), or a current board member.



Help Muskies, Inc. Celebrate 50 Years

Plans for Muskies Inc.'s 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet are moving forward.

An event this size will take many volunteers to make it happen. It is being hosted by the Twin Cities and North Metro chapters and will be attended by people from around the country. Please consider helping out your chapter during this important event.

If you are willing to help at the dinner checking in people or with decorations, please contact Denise Olson at mi50.banquet@gmail.com. If you are willing to help with the games or raffles setting up, as a runner or selling tickets, please contact Dan Mruz at ddmuskies@yahoo.com. If you are willing to help in the hospitality room after the dinner, please contact George Selcke at selckgeo@gmail.com.

We will also need volunteers to serve as hosts and help direct people that evening. If you are willing to help, please contact Elaine Randolph at e-rand@umn.edu. Elaine will also need volunteers to serve as hosts and help direct people during the Hugh C. Becker Muskie Symposium that will be held Sunday-Tuesday, March 13-15 following the banquet.

Help us make this an event to remember for a long time. If you have any questions contact Eric Schultz at tcmi.president@gmail.com.



10-year-old Gracie Hartman, left, boated her biggest muskie ever in November. She was out with her dad Paul and 7-year-old sister Lily on Bald Eagle Lake and caught the 47-inch muskie as they were reeling in the lines at the end of the day. It was a great fighter and she took several minutes to bring it in close enough to net. Congratulations, Gracie!! Gracie has chosen to fish in the adult women's division rather than the junior division, making her the first place Women's Division winner. As the winner of the division, she will fish in the Master's Women's Division next year.

Sportsman's Banquet

Because the Twin Cities chapter is hosting Muskies Inc.'s 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet this March, the Board of Directors has made the tough decision not to hold our annual Sportsman's Banquet this year. The Sportsman's Banquet is typically held in March and with the 50th Anniversary Banquet also in March, it didn't seem probable that we had enough time or personnel to handle both events or that we wanted to ask people to attend two events in the same month.

If you've come to the Sportsman's Banquet in the past, please make plans to attend Muskies Inc.'s 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet this year instead. It is shaping to be an event with a similar format as the Sportsman's Banquet and you'll be able to meet fellow Muskies, Inc. members from around the country. It will be held at the Minneapolis Sheraton West near Ridgedale Mall, March 12. Make your reservations at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org/node/203. Cost is \$50 per person. Raffle ticket packages will be available at the banquet.

The North Metro chapter has scheduled their annual all-you-can-eat fish fry fundraising dinner for February 13 at the Coon Rapids VFW, 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW. There will be Grand Prize drawings for a 55-inch HDTV, a full-day guide trip with Jason Hammernick, and a Shimano TranX reel as well as other raffles and games. Tickets are \$30 before February 1, \$40 after, free for ages 17 and under. For tickets contact Mike Riha at mvriha@aol.com or 763-607-2800.

Facebook Trivia Contest



Answer the monthly trivia question on the Twin Cities Muskies, Inc. Facebook page and be entered in the drawing for a give away. Every month a new question is posted.

Answers can be found by searching through the Muskies, Inc. website and Lunge Log! Submit your answers to tcmi.fbcontest@gmail.com. Our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Twin-Cities-Muskies-Inc-121519154541005/?ref=hl>

Good luck!

Twin Cities Chapter President's Award



Jon Meyers, center, recently presented John Underhill, left, and Aaron Meyer, right, the chapter's Presidents Award for their efforts achieving a 54" limit in Minnesota.



Jeff Arnold was presented the President's Award for his and Reed's contributions to the Frank Schneider tournament.

The Twin Cities Chapter President's Award is presented from time to time by the chapter Board of Directors to people - not necessarily in our chapter - who they deem have made contributions directly to our chapter and/or the muskie resource. Three deserving individuals were recently presented the award.

Jeff Arnold of Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters headquartered in Walker, MN was presented the President's Award at the 2015 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament. Reed's has been a major contributor to the Frank Schneider Tournament for many years turning their store over to us for entry sales and packet pick-up on the day before the tournament, serving as tournament headquarters, providing door prizes and prizes for raffles and games, and much more. We thank Jeff Arnold and Reed's for everything they do to help us make the tournament a success.

Our RVP Jon Meyers recently presented John Underhill and Aaron Meyers President's Awards at a recent Minnesota Muskie Pike Alliance meeting, for all their hard work and dedication helping to convince the MN legislature to change the minimum length for a kept muskie to 54". Muskie anglers throughout the state will benefit for many years to come!

Peacock Bass Fishing in the Amazon

Peacock bass is generally considered to be the world's best freshwater fighting fish. Here's your chance to find out (and compare it to the last 50" muskie you caught). A peacock bass fishing trip to the Amazon River, deep in the heart of the Brazilian rain forest, is being organized by former Twin Cities Chapter member Bob Junghans. The adventure, which will take place January 7-14, 2017, will be outfitted by River Plate Anglers out of Manaus, Brazil.

The trip includes 7 days of guided fishing on areas of the Amazon and its tributaries that are exclusively licensed to River Plate Anglers. Lodging is in floating, double-occupancy, air conditioned and wi-fi connected cabins, that are moved multiple times during the trip to assure fishing unpressured water. One night's lodging in Manaus, Brazil, and all meals are included. Cost of the trip is \$5,595.00 per angler. Travel from the U.S. to Manaus, tips for guides and staff (est. \$350.00) and cost related to additional time spent in travel are not included.

Four slots are still remain available. For more information contact Bob Junghans at (612) 812-6060 or bobjung305@gmail.com.

Nominations Sought for Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented each year 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 it for our chapter.

Nominations of an individual for the Muskie Award must be submitted in writing. Include a history of the person's involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter over the years. 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 January 31.

Visit the All-Canada Show

If you're interested in going to the All Canada Show February 4-7, take the opportunity to cut out the coupon on page 7 of this issue. We will also have the coupons available at our next meeting on January 12.

Help Assemble Bucktails

For the past several years, our chapter has made bucktails for distribution to kids. We are looking for some volunteers to help assemble more of the bucktails before the Awards Program on February 9.

We already have hooks attached to wires and flashabou coils tied. If we create an assembly line, we will have them done in less than an hour. We need people for the following tasks: 1 to put the weight on the wire; 1 to put the coil on; 1 or 2 to put the beads on; 1 or 2 to put the blades and clevises on; and 1 or 2 to bend the wire into a loop and trim the excess. All components will be provided. No tools needed except for the person, who is bending the final loop and trimming the wire.

So far only one person has volunteered. If you would be willing to help, please contact Tom Keith at tomk@usiwireless.com and let him know what task you want to do.

The bucktails will be given to Terry Schar, Youth Director. Thanks for supporting the chapter's Youth Program.



Marco Brinatte registered the longest muskie for our chapter this past season. The 55.5-inch fish was caught on Minnetonka July 5 and earned Marco the Lunker of the Year honor.

Share Your "Muskie Tale"

Tell us your "Muskie Tale". We're looking for stories that are something a little out of the ordinary. Think back on this year about something that happened while fishing, or thinking about fishing, or on the way to fishing, or coming home from fishing... well, you get the idea. Take the time to jot down a Muskie Tale. You know, a funny or unusual story. Who fell out of a boat this year?? Whose boat sank?? Who boated something that wasn't a fish?? Who saved 100 muskies?? Who had double trebles in their legs?? What other mishap might have happened?? Something along those lines. We're not necessarily looking for the "big fish" story. We 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.

Win Two Weeks at Red Wing Lodge



The Bartlett family of Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods is sponsoring a fundraiser drawing for chapter member Terrie DuBe who has inoperable cancer. Terrie is well-known in the muskie-fishing world, having served as Muskies, Inc. national secretary for over seven years, participating in the PMTT on the only all-female team, and guiding on Leech Lake. She was an active member of our chapter and moved to the Leech Lake area several years ago.

The winner of the drawing will get a two week stay for up to four people in a two bedroom housekeeping cabin at Red Wing Lodge. You can stay two weeks in a row, split into two trips, or take over two years. Trips include free boat ramp, free dockage, and Canadian conservation fishing licenses. The winner must attend the trip. It is not transferable.

Donations – a chance in the drawing – are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. 100% of all donations will go to directly to Terrie to offset her medical expenses. Send checks made out to Terrie DuBe with your name, email address, home address and phone number to Terrie DuBe, c/o Red Wing Lodge, Box 1008, Baudette, MN 56623. The winner of the fundraiser drawing will be drawn at the 2016 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge at Red Wing Lodge on August 26, 2016.

Any and all donations are appreciated. The Bartletts ask that you encourage your friends to participate. Information about Red Wing Lodge can be found at www.redwinglodge.net.

2015 Chapter Members Only Contest Final Standings

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Another season is in the record books. There were some among us who had great seasons and there were some of us who had a rough go of it. But, that is the great thing about these fish. There is always someone out there who is catching them no matter how tough we think the fishing is.

No matter your personal success, the Lunge Log is a tool we can use to we can go back and crunch some numbers to see what worked and where people were having some success, even if you weren't.

Here are some numbers from this last season from the Lunge Log:

- As a chapter we registered 329 muskies from 4 states/provinces and 42 lakes/ivers.
- We had an average of 41.12", up from last year's 40.39".
- By size: 50s - 23, 40s - 189 and 30s - 116.
- Catch numbers: April - 2, May - 6 June - 38, July - 61, August - 80, September - 47, October - 63, and November - 26.
- Average size by month: April - 34", May - 38.1" June - 40.7", July - 41.9", August - 42.5", September - 41", October - 40.3", and November - 42.7".
- The top lakes: Lake Minnetonka - 73, Lake of the Woods - 73, White Bear Lake - 18, Lake Bemidji - 16, and Lake Vermillion - 15.
- The top lure types: Bucktail - 117, Crankbait - 74, Jerkbait - 46, Surface - 34, Spinner - 30.

So looking at all this info, I think I am going to put myself on the water in July/November on Lake Minnetonka/LOTW with a bucktail. I am pretty sure this held true last year as well as the number one pattern. That should guarantee me a big fish, right?

The results of this season's Member's Only Contest are as follows:

JUNIOR DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Zander Zaccardi	193	13	47"
2ND	Paige Sommerfeld	21	1	47"
3RD	Olin Knutsen	15	1	41"

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Gracie Hartman	21	1	47"
2ND	Heather Woods	17	1	43"
3RD	Kathy Keith	14	1	40"

WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	258	18	54"
2ND	Linda Knutson	39	3	48"

MEN'S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Eric Bakke	423	27	53"
2ND	Gary Woods III	270	17	54"
3RD	John C Newman Jr	209	16	51"
4TH	Alexander McLean	189	11	52"
5TH	Phil Groth	160	11	46.25"
6TH	Matt McDonald	154	9	50"
7TH	Erik Chrissis	148	12	49"
8TH	Casey Friskney	132	8	50.5"
9TH	Peter Janik	125	9	49"
10TH	Tony Sommerfeld	119	7	53"

MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Dustan Forschen	27	2	42"
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MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Marko Brinatte	499	27	55.5"
2ND	Mark Fredrick	317	23	52.5"
3RD	Brent Hirsch	238	19	46.5"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

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

JUNE - Official - David Gustafson - 55" - 6/7/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

JULY - Official - Marko Brinatte - 55.5" - 7/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

AUGUST - Official - Gary Woods III - 54" - 8/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

SEPTEMBER - Official - Mark Frederick - 52.5" - 9/16/2015 - Lake Bemidji, MN

OCTOBER - Official - Brian Hansen - 51" - 10/26/2015 - Little Sand Lake, ON

NOVEMBER - Official - Andy Wayt - 53" - 11/25/2015 - Lake Mille Lacs, MN

These results are all final as of January 1. I will be ordering the plaques for the top three in all of the categories in the upcoming week, so please let me know if there are any errors in my math.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Members Only Contest and I hope to see you at the Awards Ceremony!

We will be hosting the Members Only Contest Awards Ceremony during our general meeting on February 9 at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington. We will have a meal served at 6:30 and the program will begin promptly at 7 pm. Feel free to bring your significant others and families to our event, it should be a great time!

Book Early, Enjoy Planning Through the Hard Water Time

Soon muskie water turns hard. Equipment gets shuffled and stored. This past season's memories are retrieved, the fun is relived, extended. Yet easily overlooked is that big-time muskie trips extend fun on the front side as well: the planning, the map checking, the selecting of new "secret weapons." Those front-side activities enhance the "chess game" part of the sport. **Book now and enjoy the fun of specific planning and its detailed muskie talk all through the hard water time.**

The annual Muskies Inc. Trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for either that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. The convenience of a drive-in camp with the privacy you would expect on an island.

Dates for coming season: **August 6-13, 2016.** 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 50 years, is clean and comfortable, where everything works. 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, in '83, '86, '93, '97, '03, '04, '11, '12 and again in 2014. 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

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$350 (US Funds) for 2016, just \$50.00 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

Included in the full value of the 2016 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 Bartlett's
- 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. First come, first served. 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, majxo@mac.com, 2108 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or John Genosky, (651) 329-4898, John@Protacinc.com, 904 81st St., Lino Lakes, MN 55014

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



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Hannay's Boating Fever

Looking for something to do on a cold February day? Hannay's Marine invites all Muskies, Inc. members to their Boating Fever Open House on Saturday, February 13 from 9-3. Featuring seminars by Ted Takasaki at 10am and Larson Pro Mike Frisch at 12:30pm. Humminbird, Minnkota, Lowrance, and MotorGuide Representatives will be here to answer questions. There will be free samples, food, and door prizes. Best of all it is free! Come join us here to see you.

Hannay's Marine: 2550 New Brighton Blvd., St. Anthony, MN 55418. 612 781 7411



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JANUARY 12

Did you know a series of receivers exists from the Mississippi at Saint Louis, MO on up the Saint Croix and Minnesota rivers? Muskies have been outfitted with sophisticated transmitters that tell not only where the muskie is, but its depth and the water temperature. Come hear Joel Stiras of the East Metro DNR office describe data from this complex system.

Also, we'll have someone who caught a record muskie on Mille Lacs this Fall.



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

Return Service Requested

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.).

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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Big Mama Lures	Lakeview Inn	Phantom Lures	Third Street Brewhouse
Big Wood Musky Lures	Lakewood Products	Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky	Thorne Bros
Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle	LAX Reproductions	Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods	Temple Fork Outfitters
Broadwater Bay Resort	Leech Lake Gaming	Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters	Trappers Landing Lodge
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Fenwick Rods	Musky Hunter Magazine	Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion	
Fishing for Life	Musky Innovations LLC	St. Croix Rods	
Fishing Hardcore – Ben Olsen	Musky Madness Guide Service – Kris Astorp		
Frankie's Live Bait & Marine	Musky Mayhem Tackle		
Gary's Custom Rod & Reel	Musky Mercenary Guide Service – Matt Seifert		

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.

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