



Volume 22, Issue 1

JANUARY 2019

Twin Cities Celebrates 40 Years as a Muskies, Inc. Chapter



Elaine Randolph shared some of our chapter history at the December meeting to recognize our 40 years as a chapter. Items on display included several years of buttons from the early "International" tournament that is the Frank Schneider event we hold today, many photos, and a couple of the infamous gold jackets that were a must for all Twin Cities chapter members in the 1970s and 80s.

The first meeting of Muskies, Inc. was held in December of 1966 and attended by 15 individuals. By the 1970s Muskies, Inc. had over 1000 members and chapters in several other states with the original Twin Cities group as the parent with all officers and board members coming from that group. With the addition of so many chapters, Muskies, Inc. re-organized in 1978. The parent group became the Twin Cities chapter on the same level as all other chapters.

Four New Directors Elected to Chapter Board

The chapter welcomes four new board members – Dale Mueller, Nolen Ryba, Chris Smythe and Tom Keith – who were elected at the December chapter meeting to serve 2-year terms on the chapter Board of Directors starting in January. They will be joining eleven veteran board members who were re-elected, as well as the eight board members who will finish out their 2-year terms in 2019.

Following the election of board members, chapter officers were elected. Officers are elected to serve for one year. Jim Doyle will again be chapter president. Casey Friskney was elected as first vice president and Jim Kroupa was elected second vice president. New chapter treasurer is Elaine Randolph, and Tom Keith was elected to take over for Elaine as chapter secretary.

Annual Sportsman's Banquet March 30

The Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet, our chapter's annual fundraising event, is scheduled for Saturday, March 30 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. This year's banquet will be bigger and better than ever with over \$20,000 in prizes including stays at Canadian and US resorts, fishing trips with renowned muskie guides, rods, reels, entertainment packages, guns, and loads of tackle, storage and other outdoor gear. There will be themed raffle tables worth more than \$1,000 each, cash raffles and games, as well as silent auction items.

Again this year, pre-event early-bird options will be available. All attendees who purchase a Gold or Platinum raffle ticket/dinner package before March 15 will be entered in exclusive early-bird bonus drawings.

By purchasing a Gold or Platinum package, attendees can save up to \$60. The Platinum package (\$220 value) includes dinner and \$180 in Muskie Bucks for only \$160. The Gold package (\$140 value) includes dinner and \$100 in Muskie Bucks for only \$110. Cost of the dinner only is \$40 per person.

On-line reservations for the Sportsman's Banquet will be open February 1 at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. We will also mail reminders with reservation forms to be received before February 1. Seating is limited to the first 200 who purchase tickets and they will go fast, so get your reservations in early.

Don't forget to invite a friend. This is a fun night out whether you are "into" muskie fishing or not.

The banquet committee can use help if you are planning to attend. Volunteer to help with check-in or man one of the prize tables or games. Please contact Denise Olson, Elaine Randolph or Shawn Kellett or email tcmi.sponsor2@gmail.com.

Nominations 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 national 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 for 1980. The Twin Cities chapter made the decision to continue the award for our chapter.

Nominations of an individual for the Muskie Award must be submitted in writing. Include the reasons you are nominating that person or a history of the person's involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter over the years.

The Board of Directors will vote on the nominees and the new recipient will be presented the award at our annual Sportsman's Banquet in March.

Send your nomination to Jim Kroupa at 6311 Steller Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331. Or email them to Jim at kroupaandsusan@gmail.com. Call Jim at 952-474-5967 if you have questions. Nominations must be in by February 15.

From Our President, JIM DOYLE

Happy New Year everyone! As always we all hope people got good things for next season over the holidays. If not, show season is coming up soon enough!

Just a reminder to all that over the coming season we have several chapter events that are great fun to be part of. The banquet is coming up at the end of March, a great event to attend but fun to help out with as well.

Over the rest of the year we have the Vets Home Opener, the Capable Partners outing, veterans fishing events, high school qualifier for the state tournament, the Frank Schneider and George Wahl tournaments, and other chapter/fishing league events.

Please plan on attending some or even better volunteering some of your time. These are excellent opportunities to meet other Muskie enthusiasts, network, and have a great time.

Become An Active Member of Your Chapter

Many opportunities are available to become more involved in your chapter without making the commitment to join the Board of Directors. Currently we are looking for someone to take over for Terry Schar as our Youth Chairperson. Terry has retired and will be moving out of state. The Youth Chairperson coordinates and hosts a one-day event in June to qualify two teams for the state High School tournament. They will work with the sponsorship committee to obtain prizes and awards for that event. They will also work with the chapter to complete and submit an application and accountability report for a Hugh C Becker grant for the youth program. The chair coordinates working with Fishing for Life (FFL) including the club's donation which helps FFL run activities like the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration. Terry will be around for a while and will help the new volunteer with the youth program. The chair also welcomes and hands out lures to youths at our monthly meetings. Contact Terry at twschar@hotmail.com or 612-865-4200 if you can take over for him.

At both George's Minnesota Muskie Expo March 8-10 and the Northwest Sportshow March 21-24 volunteers will be needed to work at our booth during each event. If you're interested in working either day or evening hours at either event, contact Greg Ide at gregide@aol.com or 612-331-5034. Volunteers are also needed to work at George's Tackle Box helping kids create their own lures at the Expo. If you'd like to help with that, contact Dave or Linda Knutson at 651-328-4622 or knutlmskhtr@q.com.

Our chapter's Sportsman's Banquet is coming up at the end of March. The committee is currently meeting to obtain items for raffles, games and auctions as well as plan the details of the evening. The committee will be meeting every other week until the banquet. If you want to be a part of planning the banquet, contact Denise Olson (tcmi.sponsor2@gmail.com or 612-804-4687), Shawn Kellett (tonkamuskie@gmail.com or 612-201-0209) or Elaine Randolph (e-rand@umn.edu or 651-452-1209). We'll also be asking for volunteers to work that evening closer to the event.

Join the Frank Schneider tournament committee and help plan the 3-day event that takes place the weekend after Labor Day in September. Contact Casey Friskney at cfriskney@gmail.com or 715-419-1187 to join the committee or learn more about ways you can help at the event.

Tell Us Your Muskie Tale

The Muskie Tale Award is presented every year to the person who has the best “tale” from the previous season. As you reflect back on your muskie season, keep in mind events that happened that might make a good “Muskie Tale”.

We’re not necessarily looking for the “big fish” story. 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. Maybe some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing. Maybe you found something interesting on the end of your line. Maybe something or someone went overboard during a fishing expedition.

Muskie Tales will be told at our chapter Awards Program in February and we’ll vote on the best one. Peter Janik’s story was voted the best of last year’s stories. As a reminder, here’s Peter’s story:

Setting the stage: Turn back the hands of time to a summer fishing trip in Northern Wisconsin with my father-in-law, Roger, and his friend. The plan was to fish all day out of a spacious pontoon boat. But the motor failed to start, so we went to the backup plan of fishing out of my small 14 ft. bench seat aluminum boat. So we were 3 guys crammed into a small boat with all our gear. At our first spot, on the back cast of his first cast of the day, Roger hooks the tip of his brand-new, never-been-used rod and reel, launching them out into the water out of his line of sight. Reacting as fast as I could I started the motor to get to the rod. The rod sunk before I could reach it – never to be retrieved. Lesson learned: Safely tuck away your rods.

Fast forward: The 2017 Frank Schneider Tournament fishing with Rob Laliberte. I noticed him not securing his rod to my satisfaction – rod tip extending out over the edge of the boat. I hold my tongue not saying anything. After a tough morning of fishing, Rob finally has a big fish come in hot behind his bait. As he goes into his first turn on the figure 8, he gets hooked up on the rod hanging over the edge of the boat, having to stop his bait to avoid pulling his rod overboard. Huge opportunity missed. Right after this I tell Rob the story of my father-law’s rod going overboard – hoping to get him to secure his rod. An hour later, fishing the same spot, Rob’s rod is still hanging over the edge of the boat. He hooks it on his back cast but luckily it lands in the boat as it’s flying forward. Lesson re-enforced.

This November on Lake Waconia: Fishing alone, I decide to rig up 3 rods. I placed the rods I was not using – which both had newly-bought Beast reels on them – along the side of the boat, the nine-footer rod tip extending out beyond the boat. Setting up a drift along the southern shore, I pass in front of Lola’s restaurant casting a monster Intimidator jerk bait. Casting, I hook and launch, not just one – but both rods, 15 yards out into the frigid water!!!

Reacting quickly, trolling motor on MAX, I run over to the rods and snagged one rod before it went out of reach. The other rod sunk into about 10 feet of water. Now I’m thinking everyone at Lola’s must be rolling on the floor having a good laugh at my expense. Not giving up on the rod, I punch the GPS to locate my position and start motoring near the spot adding waypoints each time I see the rod. All the while trying to snag it. After an hour of trying, I gave up as the wind made it impossible to see to the bottom of the lake. At the end of the day I decide to fish past where the rod was. To my luck the wind let up. I managed to see the rod below and quickly throw out a line with a big treble hook and sinker. After about the third try I snag and pull the rod out of the depths. As I do so, a group of people came out of Lola’s yelling “Did we just see you fish a rod out of the water”? Lesson learned? Maybe.

Share your muskie tale with us by emailing your story to Denise Olson at olsonat3pete@gmail.com.

Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Mike Darley,
Chapter Members Only
Contest Chair

The Muskie season in Minnesota has been closed for almost a month now, and much of the local fishing has turned to ice fishing. Since writing my article last month, there were no other fish registered, leaving November catches to a minimal.

Our club registered 303 muskies caught this year! What an accomplishment. Better yet, 24 of those fish were 50 inches or bigger!

We will be holding our annual awards banquet February 12 and going through the leaderboards in more depth. It’d be great to see everyone finishing on the leaderboard in attendance to be recognized and talk about some of their season highlights. Our official year-end postings will be issued in next month’s article as there are still a few days left technically to register fish.

Lastly, if you have any fun pictures of your catches this year that you’d be willing to share, please send them to me at Michael.Darley@libertymutual.com. It’d be great to have some more pictures available for our annual awards ceremony. With your picture, put your name, and size of the fish with the picture. Thank you in advance, and Happy New Year!

Join Fellow Muskies, Inc. Anglers for Red Wing Lodge Outing

Big fish opportunity is awaiting you at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, Canada. The resource and the big fish culture that has developed over the years at Red Wing can be captured in good part with the following single stat: 15,000 muskie releases!

Package up big fish opportunity with a reservation for the annual August Muskies, Inc. Outing to Red Wing Lodge. This opportunity has been provided for years by the cooperative support of Mike and Anne Bartlett of Red Wing Lodge and our two local Muskies, Inc. chapters. The annual trip to Red Wing is a great choice for either that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip.

Dates for this year's outing: August 10-17, 2019. 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 Muskies, Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service, so they understand what muskie people need and like.

Thirteen times Chapter Challenge headquarters, and chosen again for this August of 2019. 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 2019, just \$50 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

Included in the full value of the 2019 Muskies, Inc. trip:

- Free dockage (\$72 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. First come, first served. Early deposits are appreciated by the Bartletts as these funds are used to purchase materials for cabin improvements, most of which can only be made over the winter.

Don't just wish. Make it happen. Any questions or suggestions for improving the outing, please contact:

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(651) 336-3622
2108 Palace Ave.
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maxjo@mac.com

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Clean Out Your Tackle Box

Take time this month to go through your lures, rods, reels and other fishing equipment. We will have a donation box at our meeting for new or gently-used items. Our Youth Chairperson, will use the donated lures, rods, reels for youth activities throughout the year.

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On the Water is published monthly for members and friends of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc.
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Big Mantrap Lake Spawning Study/Electric Trolling Motors

Caleb Shawlik from the DNR Park Rapids Fisheries Office will talk about implanting transmitters into female muskies as a way to find and protect spawning areas from destruction by lakeshore development on Big Mantrap Lake. The transmitters were purchased using funds from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation.

Mike Nelson from Motor Clinic, electric trolling motor repair, will follow with tips on maintenance and selecting a new motor. He will also unveil a new replacement pedal for the discontinued Minnkota Power Drive foot pedals.

Muskies Inc. Twin Cities chapter meetings (except summer) 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 fund raising 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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