

# On the Water



Volume 22, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2019

## Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament

from Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament Director, Casey Friskney



Above, first place finisher James Hanson with one of his four Lake Winnibigoshish muskies – 46.5", 45", 43.25", and 41.75" – registered during the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament. The last one was caught in the final 5 minutes of Sunday morning which boost him into first place.

Left, Aaron Peterson caught one of the largest tournament fish ever registered in the 52-year history with his 55.5-inch Bemidji Beast! His fish qualified him for the free Lax Replica to be presented during next year's tournament. Aaron also registered an extremely healthy 49.25-incher and took home second place in the tournament.

The 52nd Annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament is officially in the history books, and goes down as one of the best events I've ever been a part of. This event is our chapter's largest undertaking. When all is said and done it takes months of planning, seemingly endless hours of preparation, 20+ volunteers coming together to put on a three-day event spanning 26 bodies of prime muskie water across the Bemidji/Cass/Walker/Longville areas. Thank you all who made it out and especially thank you to all who helped put on this truly amazing event!

This year's Schneider saw 90 qualifying (40-inch+) muskies caught/released/registered by 79 people, with one 39.5-inch northern registered as well. This was a big fish event, even though the total number of 50-inch+ fish registered was down to 4 from the past two years where we saw 10+, we had two absolute monsters – 55.5- and 54-inches – registered, and an average fish size of about 44.5 inches. Ten people doubled up, one tripled, and for the second year in a row, it took it took one individual, James Hanson, quadrupling up to take the top spot.

**SCHNEIDER TOURNAMENT** continued inside

### OCTOBER 8 MEETING AT WAYZATA BREW WORKS

The chapter's October monthly meeting will be at the Wayzata Brew Works, 294 Grove Lane E, Suite 150, Wayzata.



We met at the Brew Works in April and it worked out well. This month, Ben Olsen, who spends summers in Minnesota and winters in Florida will talk about fly-fishing for muskies.



# George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament



Jim Harmon won the George Wahl Tournament with this 51.25-inch muskie and a 41-incher from Minnetonka. Jim also fishes in the Summer League which has a requirement for showing a playing card to confirm a catch. The fish helped put Jim in first place in the Summer League also.



Lexie Lowe registered was the only female contestant who registered a muskie during the George Wahl tournament, earning her top honors for the Mary Villnow bonus.

**T**welve muskies were caught by 11 anglers during the 11th Annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament on Saturday, September 28. Participants reported fishing was pretty slow all day. The majority of those who registered fish said the fish they caught was the only one they saw all day. A few follows were also reported by other anglers, but not much action from them. It was hard to get them to even get interested. It was a year where the majority of fish caught were over 45 inches. Most years we see the most fish in the 40 to 43-inch range.

The winner, Jim Harmon, was the only contestant who registered more than one fish. His first muskie, a 51.25-inch beauty, was caught first thing in the morning after just a few casts. His

second muskie, a 41-incher, came in the early afternoon. Jim received \$1000 for his effort as well as a custom-made plaque that will display a picture of the fish and the lure used to catch it, an Eagle Tail lure, and a \$50 Thorne Bros. gift card that the top five winners received.

Second and third place winners were both fishing White Bear Lake. Greg Werner registered a 49-inch muskie that earned him \$500. Matthew Meyer's third place fish was a 48-inch fish. Because the fish's tail was cut off on his pictures, and the 47-inch marker could be seen, he got credit for a 47-inch fish. The third place win earned him \$250. Fourth place was won by Dan Madden with a 46.75-inch muskie from Lake Independence. Shawn

McGrade rounded out the top 5 with a 46.5-incher from Forest Lake. Matt Olson who caught a 46.5-inch muskie would have been in fourth place except for a mishap with his photo of the fish which did not show the whole fish on the bump board.

Lexi Lowe, with a 43-inch muskie out of Bald Eagle Lake was the lone lady who registered a fish, earning her the first place Mary Villnow bonus of \$250. The bonus is named after Mary Villnow, an avid muskie fisherwoman who passed away several years ago. Her husband Paul started the bonus as a way to encourage more ladies to become muskie anglers.

There were no juniors who registered a muskie this year. We did have one lady, Abby Keifer, who called in a 46.5-incher from Minnetonka who failed to complete the registration by turning in a fish registration/witness form at the awards program at the end of the day.

Every person who registered a fish in the tournament, was entered in the Grand Prize drawing. Shaw McGrade was the lucky winner of a week stay for four at Whitefish Bay Camp, Lake of the Woods.

100% of the proceeds from the George Wahl Tournament will go to the metro area muskie fishery.

## 2019 George Wahl Tournament Standings

	NAME	LENGTH	TOTAL POINTS	LAKE
1	Jim Harmon	51.25, 41	32.5	Minnetonka
2	Greg Werner	49	19	White Bear Lake
3	Matthew Meyer	47	17	White Bear Lake
4	Dan Madden	46.75	17	Independence
5	Shawn McGrade	45.5	15.5	Forest Lake
6	Alexis Lowe	43	13	Bald Eagle
7	Matt McDonald	43.5	13.5	Minnetonka
8	Dustin Nystel	42	12	Bald Eagle
9	Kevin Daly	41	11	Waconia
10	Matt Olson	46.75	10	Harriet

## SCHNEIDER TOURNAMENT continued from page 1

For his first place finish, James received a week stay at Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods courtesy of Mike and Annie Bartlett and their family. All of the top ten winners received an Abu Garcia rod and reel combo, Sébile lure, and Berkley leaders courtesy of tournament sponsors, Pure Fishing. Abu Garcia also gave newly-redesigned Beast reels to the anglers who registered the three longest fish caught using an Abu Garcia reel.

Here are the notable highlights from this year:

- Aaron Peterson caught one of the largest tournament fish ever registered in the 52-year history with his 55.5-inch Bemidji Beast! He also registered a 49.25-incher for second place in the tournament.
- Jim Doyle (our illustrious President) and his partner James Hanson hit it big on Winni with Jim's 54-inch tanker of a fish as well as Hanson's four fish.
- Even though we didn't have anyone qualify a fish for the Junior Division, we were made aware of three Juniors who caught under 40-inch subqualifying fish. For two of them, it was their first ever muskie caught!
- The ladies showed up to fish yet again, with Erin Sollund, Elizabeth Westlund, and Diane Nguyen claiming the women's bonus for the top three muskies. It is also worthy to note that Natasha Simpson qualified a 40-inch muskie, and Caitlin Bissen had a heartbreaker mid-40's get off boatside on Sunday morning.
- Anita Doenz secured the Northern Pike Division with her 39.5-incher.
- For the third year in a row we did not have a qualifying fish registered on fly tackle despite some very notable sticks chasing the fish with the fly. I was made aware of numerous follows, several misses, one that got off at the boat, but yet again the Fly Winner title goes unclaimed.
- A check for \$3,500 was presented to the area MN DNR for the area's muskie fishery.
- A Lifetime Minnesota Fishing License was won by lucky youth participant, Bode Campbell.
- Muskies, Inc. Twin Cities Chapter was recognized for their support of Musky Mission Complete, a nonprofit event that pairs 12 Veterans with 6 dedicated muskie guides for an all expenses paid 3 days of healing, camaraderie, and fishing on a trophy muskie lake.
- Ben Olson and Bob Landerville. For everyone in attendance at the awards ceremony it was a couple hours of listening to these two incredible anglers joke and inform the crowd, but for those like myself fortunate enough to stay at Huddle's during the tournament, each night was an event in its own right getting to rub elbows and talk fishing with these two.

I would like to thank everyone who had a part in putting this event on. We had a committed group of individuals that put a great effort forth to make this historic event happen. This is our chapter's longest-running fundraising event and



*Above, chapter president, Jim Doyle caught the second-biggest fish in the tournament, this 54-incher from Lake Winnibigoshish and his personal best fish.*

*Right, Tournament Director Casey Friskney with the youngest tournament contestant at the awards program, Mason Runquist. Mason received a free entry into next year's tournament. The oldest tournament angler, Max Minnich was also given an entry to next year's event.*



takes a village to put something like this on. Your efforts were all greatly appreciated!

Secondly, I would like to thank the participants. They truly are the lifeblood of the Frank Schneider tournament and without them none of this would be possible. This year we had 487 people enjoy a weekend of camaraderie, great food, and most importantly – muskies!

If you happened to miss this year's event, we encourage you to join us next year to experience what a great weekend of fishing and competition can do for your soul! We promise to keep doing everything we can to put on this premier tournament, while preserving the historic ideals that has made this the best and longest running muskie tournament in existence.

The 2020 event will be September 11-13, so mark your calendars and sign up early.

Lastly, if you have any comments, complaints or ideas how to improve the tournament, or if you would like to get involved (we always need volunteers) feel free to reach out to [tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com), we'd be glad to hear from you. We hope to see everyone up there next year!



# Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Chair, Mike Darley

September came and went and the leaves are changing. We held onto water temperatures in the 70's until about three weeks into September but now we are seeing temperatures drop to the low to mid 60's. We had a few big tournaments that a few fish have been registered in the lunge log, but it seems as if we are missing quite a few registrations.

September we had 24 fish registered but it was the month of tiger muskies. We had only had one tiger musky registered throughout the year, but six were registered this month. The majority of the fish were caught casting, but two came by trolling.

It seemed that the majority of the fish this month were caught with moderate to strong winds in September. I know personally, I have had luck fishing the windblown shorelines, especially following consistent wind directions. The fish that have been caught have primarily been coming by bucktails, jerk and crank baits.

We had some movement in our men's top ten and women's divisions. We saw Lauren Stout register the largest fish in the women's division this year with a nice 49.5". Derek Boomer in the Men's division has crept his way up to third place with his seven fish on the year as well. Luke Manthey, a tiger master from last year, has also jumped into the top ten.

All these results used were pulled from 9/29. Best of luck this October, and I look forward to seeing some more live bait catches popping up next article.

## JUNIORS DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	14	1	39.5

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Lauren Stout	24	1	49.5
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## WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	20	1	46
2ND	Linda Knutson	12	1	38

## MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Ethan Stout	214	15	48
2ND	Nolen Ryba	171	10	52.88
3RD	Derek Boomer	64	7	39
4TH	Brent Lenke	58	2	57.25
5TH	Craig Johnson	53	4	48
6TH	Mike Darley	52	5	43.75
7TH	Ryan Boomer	51	4	42
8TH	Philip Groth	49	3	46
9TH	Joshua Hawke	47	3	51.5
10TH	Luke Manthey	46	4	39

## MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Brian Hanson	51	3	46
1ST	Mark Fredrick	39	2	46

## HYBRID DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Luke Manthey	33		39
2ND	Craig Johnson	31		37.5
3RD	Ethan Stout	9		35.5

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

JUNE - Brent Lenke - 6/1 - 57.5" - Mille Lacs

JULY - Colin Hulke - 7/24 - 52.75" - Minnetonka

AUGUST - Nolen Ryba - 8/8 - 52.88" - Minnetonka

SEPTEMBER (unofficial) - Nolen Ryba - 9/14 - 50" - Minnetonka

## 2019 Red Wing Outing Yields Two 50-Inch Class Muskies

During the annual Red Wing Lodge Outing August 10-17, a record 41 fishermen from the North Metro and Twin Cities chapters once again enjoyed Bartlett family hospitality. Mike and Anne Bartlett, along with daughter Kate, and son Matt, went all out again preparing for and hosting Muskies, Inc. anglers, once again exhibiting the fun and solid service with which the family has built and maintained its strong reputation in the business.

Although the week started slowly in cool temps, our group caught and released 93 muskies, including 31 of these fish coming in at 40 inches or larger. Dave Hotchkiss took big fish honors by landing a 50.5-inch muskie. Dave, a veteran of this outing, now has his name engraved on the Big Fish plaque. Dave's 50.5-inch fish barely topped a 50-incher caught by Nick Poppler. Nick's fish was on the board first, Dave's toward the end of the week, both fish generating excitement throughout the camp. In addition to the 50-inch fish, Nick caught and released 10 other muskies. Other releasers of big fish: Max Cochran (48.5"), Ryan Wyszynski (46.5"), and Ray Connoy (46"). In addition to the 93 muskies, fishermen in camp who were not part of our Outing caught another 7 muskies, bringing the combined catch in camp that week to a total of 100 fish. So, over the 7 days the average number of muskies caught and released was over 14 fish per day. These numbers are a testament to the resource as well as to the determination and expertise of Red Wing guests.

As always, stories, jokes and good-natured ribbing were enjoyed by all. The stats on these remain not part of any official record, but memories of the fun remain with us all year long. Keep an eye out for the detailed fall invitation that will officially begin the sign-up period for the 2020 Red Wing outing. Dates for the 2020 outing will be August 8-15.

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

John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622, maxjo@mac.com or  
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## Clean Out Your Tackle Box

Take some time this season to go through your lures, rods, reels and other fishing equipment. Once we start meeting again in September, we will have a donation box at chapter meetings for new or gently-used items.

Our Youth Chairperson, will use the donated lures, rods, reels for youth activities throughout the year.

# next meeting

**OCTOBER 10**  
**at Wayzata Brew Works**  
**Speaker: Ben Olsen**

*Joining us at Wayzata Brew Works is Captain Ben Olsen, who lives on Minnetonka, but doesn't confine himself to Tonka. Ben guided Robert Hawkins to the possible world record fly-caught muskie on Mille Lacs, a 57 by 26.5-inch monster. You have likely seen the exciting video of a tarpon jumping between Ben and the windshield of his boat in the Florida Gulf. Ben fishes out of Marco Island Florida in the winter.*



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## ***Return Service Requested***

*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.*

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