

# On the Water



Volume 20, Issue 7

JULY 2017

## Summer Fishing League

from Greg Kappes, Summer Fishing League Chair

The fishing league is an opportunity to fish with chapter members and to showcase your skills or learn from others. Points are awarded for fish caught and are accumulative throughout the season.

With three league events so far, only one muskie has been caught. Congratulations to Nathan Rskiewicz who caught a 41-inch muskie on Minnetonka at the first league event of the year. He is leading the league with 15 points. The league is still wide open as there are 8 events upcoming.

When you participate in one of the league events email me at [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com) to get credit for participating. I don't always get to see every person out on the lake. If you catch a muskie, remember to take a picture of the fish on a bump board and submit by email to [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com). If the length cannot be clearly viewed in the photo, the fish will be ruled to be 36 inches and 10 points will be awarded.

League participants can choose to compete for cash prizes that are awarded to the top finishers, but it is not a requirement to fish in any league event. If you choose to participate for the cash prizes, you must make a \$50 donation to the Twin Cities chapter stocking fund before fishing to qualify.

For rules and/or to make your donation visit the chapter website at [www.TwinCitiesMuskiesInc.org](http://www.TwinCitiesMuskiesInc.org) and click on Summer League. If you have questions, contact me at [tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com).

Since we don't have a scheduled meeting in July, we hope to see all our members on the water for Fishing League events.

### Summer Fishing League Schedule

DAY	DATE	LAKE	TIME
Sunday	July 9	Harriet/Calhoun	6:00 am to noon
Sunday	July 30	Rush	6:00 am to noon
Thursday	August 10	Minnetonka	5:00 to 9:30 pm
Sunday	August 20	Bryant	6:00 am to noon
Thursday	August 31	White Bear	5:00 to 9:00 pm
Sunday	September 17	Forest	6:00 am to noon
Saturday	September 23	George Wahl Tournament	
Sunday	October 8	Independence	7:00 am to 1:00 pm



Nathan Rskiewicz caught a 41 inch Muskie on the Minnetonka on opening day of the league for 15 points and the league lead.

## Capable Partners Outing Rescheduled for September 24

The morning of the chapter outing with members of the Capable Partners organization a huge storm with strong winds, thunder and heavy rain came through the cities and the event had to be canceled. The outing has been rescheduled for September 24 at Surfside Park in Mound on Cook's Bay, Lake Minnetonka. Fishing will go from 7 to noon followed by lunch. If you would like to volunteer to take out the one of the physically-challenged Capable Partners please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144.

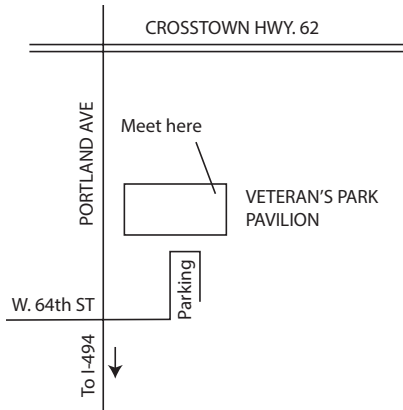


## August Meeting

The chapter's August meeting, our annual summer picnic, will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park pavilion in Richfield. 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.

Veteran's Park is conveniently located just 2 blocks south of the Portland Avenue exit off of the 62 Crosstown Highway. Enter the park at the stoplight at 64th Street.



## Frank Schneider Tournament

The 50th annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament is scheduled this year for September 8-9-10. Anglers can fish in their choice of over 20 lakes in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Leech Lake-Longville area of northern Minnesota. This event is one of our chapter's biggest fundraising events, so keep the 50-year tradition going and plan on attending. Contact Eric Bakke at [tcmi.fstourneyndirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fstourneyndirector@gmail.com) or 612-202-7169 with questions.

## Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration at Lake Minnetonka



The 9th annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration was held Friday, June 16 on Lake Minnetonka at the Wayzata Depot Docks. Over 100 kids and adults with connections to the military spent the morning fishing for any species of fish. Kids were fishing from the Wayzata Depot docks as well as in boats with volunteer guides out on the lake.

Everyone was treated to a great picnic lunch when fishing was over. An awards program was held and the people who caught the biggest fish in each species were presented with plaques and other awards.

This event is a collaborative effort with Fishing for Life. We want to thank the Fishing for Life organization for the hard work and effort that went in to planning and executing the Armed Forces Family Fishing celebration.

A special thank you to all the guides who took time to take out the military kids and families for a great day of fishing.





# High School Muskie Tournament Qualifier

from Terry Schar, Youth Program Director

The 2017 Twin Cities Chapter Qualifier for the 8th annual State High School Muskie Tournament was held on Lake Independence on June 9. Nine teams from four area high schools hit the water at 5:30 am to pit their skills and fishing savvy against each other in an attempt to qualify for one of the 3 spots to participate in the Minnesota State High School Muskie Championship held June 23 on Lake Vermilion. The weather was hot with a light east wind making conditions less than ideal. This year's "No Wake" regulation on the lake also slowed the pace and added to the challenge.

Unlike the previous two years, this year's teams failed to boat a muskie despite several reports of muskies being sighted. When 1 pm rolled around, the final tally was 5 northern pike boated by four of the teams.

The first fish of the day, a 27.75-incher, was boated early by the Lakeville #2 team—Drew Akehurst and Cade Bianchi. Drew's fish managed to hold the lead giving the team first place for the tournament even with Drew taking 3-hour break to visit the emergency room to have a hook removed from his heel.



Second place went to the Wayzata team of Jeremy Gilbertson and Tyler Carlstrom when Jeremy boated a 27 incher at 6:35am.

Drew's brother Mark from the Lakeville #3 team also got in the picture and secured third place with a 27" pike caught at 9:45. He then added a second 27-incher at 11:30. Mark and his teammate Aaron Lee filled the last position going to the state championship even though they had engine problems and spent most of the day trolling crankbaits in 20 feet of water with their electric motor.

Following a BBQ lunch, all participants received a gift for participating – something guaranteed to encourage future muskie fishing trips.

Thanks go to all judge boat participants, Doug Malsom, Shawn Kellet for the help on the water and for the presentations.



Nine teams from four area high schools competed in the Twin Cities chapter qualifier on June 9 on Lake Independence

## 2017 State High School Muskie Tournament

Minnesota chapters of Muskies Inc with support from the Hugh Becker Foundation held the 8th Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament June 23 on Lake Vermilion headquartered at Vermilion Dam Lodge.

The weather was cold, cloudy, but thankfully no rain. From 6:30 am to 2:30 pm the teams tried their best, but alas, as is often the case, the muskies were not cooperative and no muskies were caught during the tournament.

Winners of the 2017 State High School Muskie Tournament were Hunter Penrose and Rayce Eggebraaten of Parkers Prairie High School. Both sophomores won by catching the largest Northern Pike of the day. They received walnut plaques in the shape of the state of MN and a muskie rod each.

Second place went to Colton Gottwalt and Sam Nagel representing Little Falls High School. They received plaques and a muskie rod each.

Third place went to Tyler Carlstrom and Jeremy Gilbertson, both seniors, representing Wayzata High School. They also received plaques and muskie rods each.

Every participant received a Plano tackle box with 4 new musky baits. Every participant received a blaze orange Sport-Tek shirt with the Tournament logo.

Tournament Director, Mike Riha would like to thank all the parents and relatives that had to sacrifice time, effort, and treasure to see these kids get a chance to fish a big lake with big fish.

Special thanks go to the adult volunteers who chose to use their valuable resources to help with the tournament. They include: Terry Schar, Nick Poppler, Aaron Peterson, Mark Weiss, Chris Thury, Curt Ellestad, Erin and Josh Knutson, Chris Cochran, Chris Riha, Jim Kath, and the Women Angler's of Minnesota. Without them the tournament would not happen.



Greg Ide, left, Nick Poppler from North Metro chapter, center, and Rob Laliberte, right, enjoying snacks after fishing for this year's "Mini-Challenge".

## Mini-Challenge Won by North Metro – Again!

The annual "Mini-Challenge" between our chapter and the North Metro chapter was held on June 20. Participants had their choice of either White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle to fish. For the third consecutive year, the Mini-Challenge was won by the North Metro chapter. Chris Dolan from North Metro caught a 42.5-incher from Bald Eagle. His was the only muskie caught for the evening.

After fishing everyone met at Rudy's Red Eye Grill in White Bear. As is the tradition, the losers – Twin Cities chapter – treated the winning North Metro members to snacks.

## Red Wing Lodge Outing

The outing at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, Canada is a joint venture with our chapter and the North metro chapter. Dates for the outing are August 12-19, 2017.

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins is \$350 (US Funds). Contact: John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622 maxjo@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, if you want to join them this year.

## Support Your Local Fishery: 100% of Funds from the George Wahl Memorial Tournament Go to Metro-area Muskies

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the 9th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament will be put back into the local metro-area muskie fishery. The one-day event, scheduled for September 23, is held on 12 metro-area lakes.

Funds raised at the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament have enabled the Twin Cities chapter to purchase and stock close to 10,000 muskie fingerlings in White Bear Lake, Bald Eagle Lake, Lake Independence, Lake Waconia, Lake Minnetonka, and the St. Croix River over the past several years. The chapter has also been able to provide funds to the Minnesota DNR to purchase equipment for their hatcheries and by providing pit and floy tags for their studies on stocking muskies.

The George Wahl Memorial Tournament was conceived as a way to honor George, a long-time chapter member, an avid muskie angler and creator of the Eagle Tail – one of the most popular muskie baits for many years. We wanted to have a friendly competition for metro-area muskie anglers.

First place in the tournament is \$1000 cash. Second and third places will also win cash. Prizes, including

Thorne Bros. Gift Certificates and a commemorative Sinister lure are awarded through 5th place. Every person who registers a muskie during the tournament is entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize — a trip for 4 to Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$500.

Tournament hours are from 7 am to 6 pm. Tournament headquarters and the Awards program will be at Thorne Bros. in Blaine. A meal will be served prior to the program. There will be raffles and other opportunities to win items to take home.

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. Registration will open mid-August.

New this year, the tournament is one of the qualifying events for the Minnesota Muskies, Inc. Tournament Trail. Anglers who participate in the M.I.T.T. must register for the tournament trail and fish in three out of five qualifying tournaments held by Muskies, Inc chapters throughout the state. Winner of the M.I.T.T. will receive \$500.

If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Make plans to participate in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament September 23.

## Tell us Your Muskie Tale

As you are out muskie fishing this season, keep in mind events that happen 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 from fishing. Maybe some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing; or you found something interesting on the end of your line.

Share with us by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at olsonat3pete@gmail.com. The "Muskie Tail" Award will be presented to the best story shared at our Chapter Awards program at the end of the season. The winner will have the honor of keeping the chapter "Muskie Tail" – a replica of the tail from the world-record largest muskie – for the next year.





**Joel Stiras from the East Metro DNR Fisheries holds a 49-inch St. Croix River muskie that was implanted with an electronic transmitter as part of a DNR multi-species study tracking the fish. Our chapter recently purchased two acoustic receivers for the on-going study. The receivers will help track the muskies as they go up and down the river.**

## Look for 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 24-45 inch range to have the yellow tags. By this time, the tags may be covered with algae and other material, so look closely.

If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR needs data from you to complete the study. **DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG.** It is important that they get data on the recatchability of fish. Data requested for this study includes the number on the yellow tag, the name of the lake, and the length of the fish. They would also appreciate your name and phone number in case they need to follow-up. 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.

## Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Contest Chair, Casey Friskney

Here we go, one month down in the 2017 Minnesota Muskie season and over 40 fish in the books. I see a lot of the usual suspects returning to the charts as well as some new names; hopefully more and more join the standings as the season progresses!

Overall the two trends I'm seeing are that about half of the fish caught this month (and this year) have been on blades, and that we're not seeing the numbers of larger fish that I remember from last season. Presently Nolen Ryba has the only 50+-incher in the books (and presently the June Lunker of the Month) and the next longest fish is my 46 inch Bemidji Tournament fish. Hopefully we see some bigger fish start to trickle into our logs. I did the math and as a chapter this season our average size fish is sub-40 inches (39.5").

Current standings:

### WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Tera Castillo	5	1	31"

### MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Josh Lunde	66	6	44"
2ND	Nolen Ryba	64	3	50.5"
3RD	John Newman	60	5	42"
4TH	John Harazin	58	4	44.25"
5TH	Nathan Ryskiewicz	56	4	41.25"
6TH	Nick Eddy	50	3	43.5"
7TH	David Gustafson	34	2	43"
8TH	Derek Boomer	28	2	44"
9TH	Brady Hawks	23	2	39.5"
10TH	Luke Manthey	23	2	38.5"

### MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Josh Lunde	24	3	35.5"
2ND	Luke Manthey	23	2	38.5"

### MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Alexander McLean	26	2	41.5"
2ND	Brent Hirsch	15	1	41"

### LUNKER OF THE MONTH

APRIL - Unofficial - John Newman - 4/29 - Clear Lake, IA - 42"

MAY - Unofficial - John Harazin - 5/21 - Clear Lake, IA - 41"

JUNE - Unofficial - Nolen Ryba - 6/21 - Lake Minnetonka - 50.5"

Good luck to all over the next month, log your fish, and have a great 4th of July!

I'll see you on the water!

Casey

# calendar of events

## JULY

- 9 Chapter Summer League Outing - Lake Harriet/ Calhoun - 6 am-12 noon
- 30 Chapter Summer League Outing - Rush Lake - 6 am-12 noon

## AUGUST

- 8 Annual Picnic - Veteran's Park Pavilion - Richfield - 6-9 pm
- 10 Chapter Summer League Outing - Lake Minnetonka - 5-9:30 pm
- 12-19 Red Wing Lodge, LOW Outing
- 20 Chapter Summer League Outing - Bryant Lake - 6 am-12 noon
- 23-25 Chapter Challenge, Red Wing Lodge, LOW
- 31 Chapter Summer League Outing - White Bear Lake - 5-9 pm

## SEPTEMBER

- 8-10 50th Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament
- 12 Chapter Meeting
- 17 Chapter Summer League Outing - Forest Lake - 6 am-12 noon
- 23 George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament / Chapter Summer League Outing - 13 Metro area lakes

## OCTOBER

- 8 Chapter Summer League Outing - Lake Independence - 7 am-1 pm
- 10 Chapter Meeting

## Chapter Challenge

Teams from Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the country will be gathering at Red Wing Lodge, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods August 21-25 for the 2017 Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge. Our chapter has registered for two teams of 6 people each. The group needs two more to fill out the teams. The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday, August 23-25, but most participants come for the entire week to pre-fish.

Lodging is reserved for our teams for the week. Participants pay for their own lodging and share the costs of food. Wednesday and Thursday dinner is provided and on Friday lunch is served at the Awards program.

Stu McIntosh is heading up our Challenge teams this year. Contact him at [smcintosh@horwitzinc.com](mailto:smcintosh@horwitzinc.com) or 651-699-9817 if you're interested in representing our chapter at this event.



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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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# next meeting

## JULY On the Water

Typically, our chapter meets on the water for a July meeting. Join fellow chapter members on Sunday, July 9 at city lakes Harriet or Calhoun and/or Sunday July 30 at Rush Lake for a chapter summer Fishing League gathering. Both days fishing is from 6 am to noon. Let Fishing League chair Greg Kappes know you were there by emailing him at [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com) to let him know you were so you get credit for participating.

See you there!



### MUSKIES, INC.

7125 17th Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

## Return Service Requested

*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities chapter 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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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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