
BEMIDJI /CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES INC.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

<http://www.muskiesinc.com/chapters/46/>



Chapter 46 has some new Officers!

Chapter 46 held its annual elections Thursday Feb 2nd during the business portion of our speaker meeting held the same evening in the upstairs room of Cattails. Rory Potter remains the President of the chapter while Kevin Cochran retained his position as the Vice President. Newly elected officers were Brian Johnson as the new Secretary and Chris Thury as the new Treasurer.

February 2nd Meeting Overview

The meeting began with Clint Mueller, owner of Balsam Beach Resort and a representative of the Lake Plantagenet Lakeshore Owners Assoc giving a presentation on their plans for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) prevention for the lake. They have a strong membership of about 80 landowners from all around the lake. He spoke about their plan to have some volunteer DNR training of their members to conduct voluntary boat inspections throughout the summer at the public boat landing on the lake. They were looking for financial support or volunteers from the chapter to go through the training and to help take some shifts during the summer. No final decisions were made regarding chapter support, it was discussed that possibly helping them by donating some signage at the landing could be a possibility. As for volunteers to staff the landing the consensus felt that our presence in what may be viewed as an "enforcement" role may not be the best for the chapter. We do of

course support AIS awareness and best practices as it relates to keeping our boats and trailers clean to prevent the transport of AIS.

Our speaker for the night was Mike Habrat, DNR Fisheries Specialist for the Bemidji Area. He showed some pictures and presented some information on both pike and muskie studies being done in our area. You might be surprised to know that in Cass Lake, female muskies are achieving lengths of 50+ inches in just 12 years! The DNR is also performing an intensive winter creel survey this winter on Cass Lake, which will provide some good data for them to analyze as it pertains to the opening of northern pike spearing on Cass Lake this season. Thanks go out to Mike for keeping us updated on what the DNR is doing in our area.

There was also discussion about the chapter's new outing schedule and some modifications made from previous years, discussion about some changes to the chapter tournament rules, and a few tweaks to be put into the chapters annual release/replica contest. We also discussed some increased promotional activities for the chapter, getting our info published in the Pioneer, reaching out to other chapters to get mutual participation increased, and possibly getting the chapter some additional promotion via "Fishin Paul Bunyan Country" in the summer months.

Participation – what it’s all about!

Muskie fishing – it’s fun to read about, fun to talk about, fun to watch on TV, but most of the fun is in doing it! As a chapter we’re trying to increase participation at our meetings and outings. Without you the members showing up, it’s just not the same. Please take some time to see if a meeting or outing fits your schedule and come spend some time with fellow chapter members bonding over arguably our favorite past time, muskie fishing! We’re also on somewhat of a membership drive. We all know people who are avid muskie hunters in the area or maybe youth fishing enthusiasts who are not chapter members. Let’s see what we can do to get them involved. If each member could get just one new member signed up wow that would be awesome. Our meetings and outings are a great way to learn new stuff about muskie fishing and we do a great job of sharing information about everything from equipment to techniques or even current patterns on what’s working at the time on our area lakes.

Outing Coordination and Member Outreach

We’d really like it if we could improve our communication about the chapter outings and attendance at them. Heck, anytime anyone wants to fish whether it’s during an outing or not we’d encourage you to “throw a line out there” as someone’s always going fishing, often by themselves. There are plenty of members with boats who have ample room to take someone out for the day with them, but in order to do that we need to know who wants to fish – we’re pretty sure everyone wants to! Feel free to contact Rory Potter or Brian Johnson by whatever means necessary (we’ll be including contact info on all the newsletters) to get involved. Fishing with someone you’ve never fished with is one of the best ways to learn something new, get out of a slump, or just take a day or night off from running the boat yourself.

Chapter Booth at the MN Muskie Expo

As of the last meeting it was not decided if the chapter would be fielding a booth at the Expo or

not. We’d like to get some additional thoughts on the subject, and some volunteers in order to staff the booth. The show is a great time and of course if enough chapter members volunteer, there’s plenty of time to catch a seminar or get some of the latest and greatest gear/lures! Please reach out to Brian, Rory or Chris if you’re interested.

Chapter Member Email Addresses

We’re still asking any and all chapter members who receive the newsletter via snail mail to contact us and provide an email address. The chapter is not exactly flush with \$\$ and every time we can send something out via email it saves us money. Please email thrax@paulbunyan.net or call 218-760-5867 to get us an email address.

Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance Update

Our Vice President Kevin Cochran is the Co-Chair of this great group and our chapter is a voting member. The group does a lot of great things for muskies and pike in MN, and provides the otherwise voiceless fish a real presence at the Capital and in the legislature. They are expanding ideas to increase membership in a few different ways. We’d like to begin including some updates of the groups activities here as a way for all of you to keep apprised of what’s happening at the Capital.

Chapter Contact Info

Rory Potter – 2183682688
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Brian Johnson – 2187605867
thrax@paulbunyan.net

Chris Thury – 6125909785
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You can also get chapter info on outings, the tournament and contacts on our website at <http://www.muskiesinc.com/chapters/46/>

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Chapter 46 Summer Fishing Outings!!

They're a Blast every Cast!

The Chapter 46 Summer Fishing Outings are a great way for members and non-members alike to get together and share some time doing something we can all appreciate – muskie fishing! Any and everyone is welcome, while there is a little “competition” involved they’re much more about the good times, information sharing and opportunities to spend time with people you don’t get to see all the time! They kick off with our Chapter Tournament in June and proceed monthly throughout the MN muskie season. Don’t rule out those fall dates, BIG fish are getting caught every year during these outings! We’ve also added some new lakes this year, visiting Pike Bay for the first time and going back to Big Mantrap again for some fall sucker dunking (if that’s your thing)!

June 16 (Saturday) - Chapter Tournament
July 22 (Sunday) – Pike Bay (9am-5pm)
August 25 (Saturday) – Plantagenet (1pm-9pm)
September 16 (Sunday) – Cass Lake (9am-5pm)
October 13 (Saturday) – Big Mantrap (10am-6pm)
November 11 (Sunday) – Bemidji (9am-5pm)

There is a nominal fee of \$10 per person to fish, not counting the tournament fee in June. The one-time \$10 fee is good for as many of the other outings as you want to fish. The outing dates coincide as closely as possible to prime moon times, mostly new moon and all fall within the plus or minus 3 day window. You can count on some prime bites!

Points will be awarded as follows:

Attendance (member)	1pt	Fish Pts	30-39.99in	4	50in	10	55in	15
Netman	1pt		40-44.99in	5	51in	11	56in	16
Bring a new/non-member	3pts		45-47.99in	6	52in	12	57in	17
(One time only per new person)			48in	8	53in	13	58in	18
			49in	9	54in	14		

Additional rules and information:

1. MI minimum 30” applies for a fish to qualify
2. A photo must be taken of caught fish – this can be in the net, a release shot, or holding (preferred)
3. You do not have to fish the entire allotted time – make sure to contact Brian Johnson at 218-760-5867 to record your attendance in the days outing and to report caught fish size/angler/netman.
4. If fishing alone and a muskie is boated – the netman point does not apply
5. Size Points will be awarded in ½ inch increments. A 48.5in fish will be 8.5pts. Remember – we use the honor system for measurements – please be fair! Any “in between” measurements will be rounded down to the nearest ½ inch increment.
6. Musky Hunter of the Year is awarded to the person with the most points.
7. In event of a tie there can be a Gentleman/Gentlewoman’s agreement for settlement of said tie. If no agreement can be reached there will be Co-Champions.

Other Upcoming Chapter Events

March 1st – 6:30 PM – Speaker Meeting – Reed’s associate will be here to discuss electronics and how to use them to make us more successful on the water (held upstairs in the “Muskie” Room at Cattails just north of Bemidji)

April 28th – 6:30 Awards / Lure Auction water (held upstairs in the “Muskie” Room at Cattails just north of Bemidji)

June 1st – 6:00 Pre-opener Chapter Social – Kevin Cochran’s house
(Business meeting, supper, social event, and musky stories) address provided in a future newsletter

June 16th – Chapter Tourney