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BEMIDJI /CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES INC.

# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

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## Muskies Inc Banquets – Great times!

Chapter 46 members attended a bunch of other chapter banquets since the last newsletter. Quite a few of us made it down to the Brainerd banquet in early March. They had great food, we got to see some old friends and meet some new ones. They gave a ton of stuff away in their drawings, the big winner from our chapter was Ethan Rogers who won a brand new Benelli SuperNova 12 gauge shotgun, way to go Ethan! Most of us won something throughout the night.

Later in March another bunch of chapter members rode down to the Vikingland banquet in Carlos MN. The food while simpler was fantastic – and they allowed seconds! For those who haven't seen him eat, Vice Pres Cochran can really down the chow! He'd also like everyone to know the "real" way to eat mashed potatoes is with sticks of butter/hold the gravy, lol. There was an absolute TON of baits to give away, they did a really nice job of it and everyone from Bemidji brought home literally bags full of stuff, many of us won a dozen or more brand new baits – just what we needed, MORE baits! Chris Thury also brought home a new XXH 9ft Tackle Industries rod, couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

While we didn't get detailed reports from the Star of the North banquet or the North Metro banquet, we had chapter members at both of those banquets

also and they both sounded fun and lucrative for those attending.

Participation in these banquets is key to the fund raising efforts of these chapters and we'd encourage anyone who can to check them out next year, or any of their other great events throughout the year. We also took the opportunity to promote our own chapter events and look forward to increased participation in our chapter tournament in June hopefully.

## March 1st Meeting Overview

The meeting began with some informal introductions of veteran chapter members to a few relatively new chapter members who were attending their first meeting, nice meeting you Katie and Candace! We had a speaker from Reeds in Walker talk about some of the new technology available in sonar and gps units. It was very informative and everyone walked away with knowledge they didn't have before the meeting. There are some really exciting advancements out now in these units that can really help put fish in the boat from side scan, down scan and coming soon 360 degree imaging. You'll literally be able to see muskies following your baits while trolling soon and trigger those babies! Side scan can be a very useful tool for open water trolling also as it can detect baitfish and often large predators some distance from the side of the boat, you can even waypoint those fish, turn around and go right over them with your baits.

At the end of the meeting we talked chapter business for a bit, distributing some “work” as to who was hitting what businesses for donations for our chapter tournament raffle prizes. We may also have the chance to host a raffle during this year’s Frank Schneider tournament in September, this could be a great opportunity for the chapter to raise some funds – of course we’d need even MORE stuff to give away. If any of you have any business connections in northern MN and may be able to help the chapter out with these fundraising/donation efforts please contact Rory or Brian, we can use all the help we can get.

We also had a short impromptu business meeting at Cattails on March 24<sup>th</sup>. I personally am very sorry for any confusion (my fault, sent the wrong date on an email) about the scheduling of this meeting, I’ll work on accuracy of information from now on. We finalized some info for the chapter tourney posters and got updates on fundraising efforts. We’re also working on a better distribution list to be sure the posters and signups get to more people this year. More participants equals a larger scholarship and more chapter funds.

## Community Involvement – Boat access cleanups announced

The chapter has decided to host two public access cleanups this year as a replacement to our former cleaning of the ditch in Cass Lake. The date of the first cleanup will be Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The date of the second cleanup will be Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The start time for both cleanups will be 10am. We’ll all meet up initially at the Northwoods Landing near Cattails on Lake Bemidji – we’ll clean that access and then disperse from there to other area accesses depending on how many people are there. Attendance at one of these two scheduled cleanups will be a requirement to qualify for the chapter replica contest for 2012.

## Replica Contest Rules Changes

One change being made is the current rule that you have to be a chapter member in good standing to qualify for the replica. It’s being amended to clarify that membership has to be in good standing at the time of the catch as well as when the final winner is

determined at the end of the year. The witness requirement will be amended that any “in person” witness must be a chapter member. A full picture of the fish on a ruler/bump board will still also count as verification. Attendance at one of the boat access cleanups will be added (replacing the old ditch cleanups mentioned before). In addition to 1 cleanup a combination of 2 meetings or outings will need to be attended (remember the chapter tournament or the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge also count as an outings). Lastly chapter officers will not have to meet attendance requirements but will have to meet all other rules. The chapter website should have all updated rules officially posted prior to MN season opener and hopefully well before then.

## Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance and MN DNR Update

There will be a “Capital Rally” in support of the proposed license fee increases at the Capital Rotunda in St Paul on April 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10:30am. Al Linder will be the featured speaker along with hosts Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen and Representative Denny McNamara. It’s very important to show angler support for these increases as the DNR Fish and Game fund is projected to be in the red in about a year’s time without the increased revenue. MN has truly unique muskie fishing opportunities and the DNR will be unable to continue its programs at current levels without these \$\$’s. If you can, please show up, MN outdoor resources need our support. Fortunately, at the time of this newsletter there are no known “anti-esox” bills or legislation pending and we may actually have a legislative session without major conflicts to muskie and pike interests.

There are also opportunities to help the DNR with muskie assessments being done on Baby and Mann Lake this year. These can really be educational and a ton of fun on top of it. Separate emails have been sent including a flyer for the Capital Rally along with the most recent MMPA newsletter and another with the info about helping out with the DNR muskie assessments.

## Teen Challenge – Help needed

This message comes from Jeff Young, President of the Brainerd Muskies Inc Chapter.

Hey Everyone!

I'm looking for a little help. The past 2 years Donny Hines and I have fished, very successfully I might add, the Teen Challenge event but this year there has been a change. We had to break up the dynamic duo to make room for our new fishing partners. The wives! Yes... Jody is my new partner this year! Pretty excited about it as she does have a horseshoe lodged somewhere. Don't care where as long as it works. So with that being said we are raising funds for a great cause... Teen Challenge. It truly is a very rewarding event! It's one charity where you actually get to see your dollars doing something right in front of your very eyes as it changes people's lives. Addiction is a hard thing to kick but Teen Challenge is a fantastic program with a huge success rate and I'm proud to support it. Here is a link to our Teen Challenge webpage in which you can help us by donating money to reach or exceed our goal. It's very easy and tax deductible. Just click the link and then scroll down and click on "Team Young" and then click donate. Leave a comment too!

<https://mntc.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/MinnesotaFishingChallenge2012/FundraiserDirectory/tabid/339343/Default.aspx>

Jody and I very much appreciate your support!

Jeff and Jody  
Team Young #39

## Chapter Email/Outreach

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](mailto:thrax@paulbunyan.net) or call 218-760-5867 to get us an email address.

## Chapter Contact Info

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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/>

See the last page for other upcoming events and till the next bite, fish well.

Brian Johnson, Chapter 46 Secretary

## **Other Upcoming Chapter and Muskie Events**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>** – George’s MN Muskie Expo, Concordia College, St Paul MN

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

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** – 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 16<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter Tourney