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BEMIDJI /CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES INC.

# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

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## Wow, finally another newsletter!

Well, after a very busy summer and lots of fishing and muskie related activities, the club secretary has finally gotten ON his duff and on the computer to sit down and do another newsletter. Sorry for the long delay Chapter members, I hope you all understand – summer is FUN TIME!

## Community Involvement – Boat access cleanups

The chapter will have its second and final public landing cleanup of the year on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 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 is one of the requirements to qualify for the chapter replica contest for 2012. The first cleanup had 10 chapter members and a cool little dude Carter show up from as far away as the Twin Cities area and we cleaned up about 8 landings that day. We got a LOT of trash picked up, we'd love to have everyone show up and "pitch" the garbage into a bag for disposal. Reminder – bring some gloves and a bag or two if you can remember please. All the landings were cleaned up in a little over 2 hrs time total, so there's plenty of time to do other things like fish muskies that day!

## Chapter Outing Results

The current leader board is below. We've not had great participation this year and would love to have more people show up for these. We talk a lot throughout the day and share info extensively to help each other try and catch some fish, learn a new technique or tactic or even a type of spot that is out of our normal comfort zone. The folks who have come have had a great time. Other than the chapter tournament through the July, August and September outings we've only had 1 fish caught, a beautiful natural fish from Pike Bay caught by Rory Potter. It had the distinct MN/natural spots many of us love but had the dark bronze coloration know to be more common in WI strain fish. It was absolutely amazing to see. There was another hooked by Rory that day and while it was small, it would have been points Rory may end up missing before the season is done. He decided to shake it off though and rob the reporter of a netman point while doing it! Unfortunately due to water temp concerns we don't have a great picture of the bigger fish, safe release comes first. Two great outings are yet to happen, we're going to Mantrap in October and have our final outing on Bemidji in November! Lots of time to catch some huge fish and mix up the points for the year!

Brian Johnson – 16 pts  
Rory Potter – 10 pts  
Chris Thury – 4 pts

## Replica Contest Update

To the best of currently available knowledge, Chris Thury is in the lead to earn the chapter replica this year with a 53.5 incher caught on Lake Bemidji. Chris caught the fish using what most would consider an unusual tactic, casting right up to shore in extremely shallow water with a Super Model, the fish may have bit in as shallow as 1ft of water. His good friend and chapter member from across the sea in Sweden Stephan netted it for him, albeit not too smoothly from the stories I've heard about it. It also happens to be Chris's new PB. Overall good stuff, but let's all work hard to unseat the crabby balding old guy by getting a fish for someone to knock him out of that top spot before the end of the season! Remember – landing cleanup participation is required to qualify so please come to that last one!

## MN 2012 High School Muskie Tournament Info

July 2<sup>nd</sup> a number of chapter members helped organizer Tom Keith from the Twin Cities Chapter host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MN High School Muskie Championship on Lake Bemidji. What a cool deal! There were 9 two member teams who participated from all around MN in grueling heat and calm/sunny conditions. Some of you may remember, shortly after 6pm that same night was the storm that took out many trees and did tremendous damage in Bemidji and the surrounding areas, good thing we were off the lake and all safe before that hit! In the end one team from Little Falls caught a nice muskie getting old school, trolling a Cisco Kid out in open water to win the 2012 title. Another boat had 4 muskies hooked but lost them all before getting them in the net. The kids really fished hard and did a great job. We had an awards ceremony at Cattails Bar and Grill afterwards where everyone was able to cool off a little. Cattails has been a big supporter of our club, please throw them some business if you're in the neighborhood, great food and service. Tom would appreciate any help he can get promoting this for next year, if you know any high school students who'd like to participate please get that information to Brian Johnson who will pass it along or get you in touch directly with Tom. Special thanks to Rory

Potter, Rob Yuretich, Brian Johnson and Mike Winther (special guest from WI, an active muskie enthusiast) for acting as judge boats and generally helping out for the event. Tom would love some more volunteers next year let's see what we can do to help him out.

## Chapter Donations Helping Local DNR Offices

This summer the chapter officers met briefly to consider a few requests for donations to the local DNR offices in Bemidji and Walker MN. It was decided that we'd contribute \$250 to the Walker office to help secure additional Hugh Becker funds for muskie research being conducted on Baby and Mann Lakes down there. Many of you may remember an email sent out earlier this summer asking for help with this project. We also had requests for special metric bumpboards of a muskie type size to help both the Walker and Bemidji offices. These should be completed and the intention is to present them to DNR officials at the Fall Region meeting being hosted by the chapter at Cattails on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The DNR really needed some upgraded equipment and for a little over \$200 the club got them the boards custom made. Thanks to Rory Potter who took the lead on this and also for donating a bunch of time working on this project.

## Chapter 46 at the Gil Hamm

The chapter had a full 6 person team at the Gil Hamm held on Lake of the Woods in late August. Representing were Rory and Judy Potter, Chris Thury, Stephan Nielsen, Ethan Rogers and Rob Yuretich. The team started well on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and were in third place but finished a little rougher when no fish were caught on day 2 and day 3 ended with just one smaller fish. Overall the team finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 22 teams. Rory had a 48, Stephan had a 44, Ethan had a 37 and Rob had 34.5 and 36.5 inchers for the lone double. A few fish were also caught in the day or two leading up to the event by chapter members. The event was won by the Chicagoland Muskie Hunters, its currently unknown where next years event will be held. Lost during the event were an easy over 50 incher that the Potters simply couldn't get in the net, a huge fish that ate a Pounder, including the whole leader

and busted the line by Stephan and Chris lost a skeg, 2 props and a few of his brothers sweet trolling baits. Seems like Chris got the raw end of that deal but all the team members had fun and got home safely. Let's try to get another team or maybe even 2 for next year's event and bring this thing back where it belongs – Northern MN!

## Brainerd Chapter Leech Lake Shootout

See below, it would be great if some chapter members participated in this event. The Brainerd Chapter members have been big supporters and helped us out in a lot of different ways over the last few years. It would be great for some of us to show them some support as this is the first year they are doing this tournament and we'd like to see it be a successful one for years to come. The below comes from Jeff Young, President.

The Brainerd Lakes Chapter is hosting its 1st Annual Muskie Shootout on Leech Lake, October 13-14, 2012. Entry is \$140 per team and is limited to the first 50 teams. Well over \$3500 in **CASH** and **PRIZES** paying out to the top 5 teams. Special lodging and meal rates are available at tournament headquarters, Horseshoe Bay Lodge. Friday night's rules meeting will host a seminar by a top Leech Lake muskie guide. Saturday night will offer a free dinner for participants as well as multiple raffles to win dozens of prizes! The muskie action on Leech has been hot all year and it will only get better this fall when those big Leech hawks get even **BIGGER!** Spots have been filling up fast so get your registration form send it today! For more information, rules and registration form go to [www.muskieshootout.com](http://www.muskieshootout.com)

Thank you.  
Jeff Young  
Brainerd Lakes Chapter

## Unofficial Chapter Outing to Lake Vermilion?

We're proposing an unofficial outing to Lake Vermilion the weekend of October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Lodging would be at Whispering Winds Resort and would be \$55 per night to stay in a nice/heated cabin for the weekend with great docking and even better late fall fishing! Any muskie person who

hasn't been living under a rock for the past 10 years or so years knows that many of the largest fish caught each year from the US come from this tremendous body of water and most of the true supertankers are caught during the fall period. The marker/hazard buoys will still be in for safety purposes and we likely have a number of chapter members already committed to being there at this time. If anyone at all is interested please contact Brian Johnson or Rory Potter ASAP in order to make preparations. We need to let the resort know how many are coming by no later than October 12<sup>th</sup> as they will begin to close some cabins down by then and they need to know which buildings to keep open for us. For disclosure purposes – my parents are the owners of the resort and a few members should be there redeeming a free weekend stay won via auction at the chapter tournament, donated by Whispering Winds.

## Fall Chapter Meetings/Region Meeting

The chapter will have a business meeting at Cattails on Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Topics for discussion include the winter and 2013 calendar of events including our budget, lure auction, chapter tournament and initial planning of that, meeting speakers, lure auction and initial planning stages of the chapter tournament. **PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING!!** This is your chance to have your input on what the chapter is doing and your chance to make a difference or provide suggestions for improvement of things you'd like changed.

We're also hosting the Region 1 Fall Meeting at Cattails on Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> (tentatively beginning at 8am). Any and all chapter members are invited to attend. After the conclusion of the meeting we're hosting a fishing outing on Lake Bemidji for all the participants from out of the area and need additional guides to volunteer to take people out in the afternoon. Please consider volunteering some space in your boat and possibly some equipment (just for the day) and sharing the chapters great knowledge and skills with our honored guests. Contact Brian Johnson or Rory Potter if you can help with the guiding or if you plan on attending the meeting itself. We'd like to have the room set up appropriately and give the staff at Cattails an approx number of people who will be there in advance.

## 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 executive leadership of Muskies Inc has also asked us to have everyone we can update their email via the organization website also. Every email we can send vs snail mail helps the chapter and you get more frequent updates and the most current chapter information via email also. 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 below for other upcoming events and till the next bite, fish well.

Brian Johnson, Chapter 46 Secretary

## Other Upcoming Chapter and Muskie Events

**September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Public Landing Cleanup beginning at the Northwoods Launch on the northwest corner of Lake Bemidji at 10am. See more above.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** – Business Meeting at Cattails beginning at 7pm. See more above.

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Region 1 Meeting tentatively starting at 8am at Cattails. See more above.

**October 13 (Saturday) – Big Mantrap (10am-6pm)** – Chapter outing.

**November 11 (Sunday) – Bemidji (9am-5pm)** – Chapter outing.