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BEMIDJI /CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES INC.

# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

[WWW.BEMIDJICASSMUSKIES.ORG](http://WWW.BEMIDJICASSMUSKIES.ORG)



Anyone else sick of the winter that won't end? Well it's going to, time to get your muskie stuff ready!

So, as I sit working on the latest newsletter on April 21<sup>st</sup>, it's snowing outside. Seems like a recurring theme. The extended winter will certainly have an effect on our fishing efforts this summer, but it's not all gloom and doom. Sure, it's likely that when the open water season opens on May 11<sup>th</sup> that we'll not have much if any water actually open, but there will be enough somewhere to get out and scratch the angling itch. What it will mean for the upcoming muskie season is yet to be seen. Fish will likely still be spawning when our season opens. Most of our muskies are not real successful and it shouldn't make much of a difference that way, but we'll need to be more careful as fish will likely still be a little stressed when we start putting hooks into them. The open water trolling bite will likely be very active throughout June and possibly extend into July this year, as water temps will definitely be below average at least in the early summer. I for one will hope that we'll not get the extremely high temps of last year. Weed growth will be very low to start with as with the heavy snow cover on the late ice, those weeds are not going to get the early jump on growth they've had in recent years. This could definitely affect our patterns throughout the season. It will be fun to network with other chapter members to see how they put this year's puzzle together and get after these big toothy fish that we love.

Community Involvement – Public Landing Cleanups

The chapter initially intended to have its first cleanup of the year the morning of the chapter lure auction but Mother Nature has decided that is just not in the cards. We've checked most of the landings we'd like to clean up and the fact is they are still going to be snow covered that day and we don't want to have a "clean up" where nothing can actually get cleaned up. The date for the first cleanup will be Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll start at the Northwoods Landing on Lake Bemidji at 10am, clean that and move on from there. The spring cleanup last year netted us nearly 2 full complete pickup loads of trash, it was pretty amazing. The second cleanup date will be Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am, where we'll repeat the same process as the spring cleanup. These were well attended last year and while not heavily promoted in the community, they still made a difference. We'll look at getting some pictures and more community awareness going for these this year. Attendance at one of the two cleanups is one of the requirements to qualify for the chapter replica contest for 2013.

Chapter Outings – 2013 Schedule is ready!

These really were a great time last year. 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. We've mixed up the schedule again this year as a result of input at the winter meetings. We've moved some of the lakes to different months and mixed in Leech Lake this year when it should be pretty hot – for fishing muskies anyway - with a nice end of September date. All the outings are scheduled for Sundays this summer and have had times picked to accommodate people going to other activities in the morning, and being home to get to work ok on Monday mornings. We've made sure to include some key solunar events in the mix each day to enhance the chance for some big bites! We'd love to see increased participation this year, these outings are a great way to get some new ideas on how to fish our local waters, share stories about how your season is going and of course to share some friendly ribbing.

## MN 2013 High School Muskie Tournament Info

Some chapter members are in the initial planning stages of helping out with this fun event again in 2013. As of now, there are two teams from the Bemidji area participating. We can send two teams to the championship, so as of now no "regional" has been planned. We'd still like to take the teams out for a day of fishing before the championship though. The championship will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at Lake Alexander near Motley. As we get further information, we'll pass it along. More volunteers or donations of time or merchandise are always welcome. If you're interested in helping in any way or by taking some of the kids out before the championship, contact Brian Johnson at 218-760-5867 or by email at [thrax@paulbunyan.net](mailto:thrax@paulbunyan.net) please.

## Gil Hamm 2013

The chapter would like to get at least 1 if not more full teams participating in next summer's Gil Hamm outing to be held on MN's own Lake Vermilion September 18-20<sup>th</sup>. The earlier we can find out about interest, the earlier we can book lodging and get plans made. Please visit the website below to get additional info about the 2013 event. We currently have one cabin reserved that can handle our first full team, if we're going to have more we'll have to get a move on towards arranging lodging. If you've never been to one of these they are really

a great time. You get to meet muskie folks from all around the country and get a feel for the passion in the sport from a lot of places that don't have the same opportunities we do here in MN.

[http://gilhamm.com/Gil\\_Hamm/Home.html](http://gilhamm.com/Gil_Hamm/Home.html)

## Chapter Meetings/Winter Calendar

There were some great meeting this winter, with some very cool presentations from DNR officials and from Reeds. It would be great if we could get increased attendance at these. We'd like to be able to secure more "professional" industry speakers like well known guides, but we have a hard time justifying the cost if only a few people attend.

April 27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – Chapter Lure Auction, 6:30pm start upstairs in the Muskie Room at Cattails. This is our featured fundraiser of the year, those who've attended the last few know how exciting they can be! There will be a few changes this year to allow EVERYONE a chance at some super premium new and used baits!! You've got to be here! We're planning on a big turnout this year so get your baits ready for donating and your wallets ready for buying!

May 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 upstairs in the Muskie Room at Cattails. Kevin Cochran will be presenting his latest seminar, it was a big hit in April down at the Muskie Expo.

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Awesome night before opener party at Kevin Cochran's place! Always a winner (this is tentative still as of press time)!

## New Chapter Website

Some of you may notice the website on the header of the newsletter has changed – because our chapter's website has relocated! This became necessary as the national organization was changing all its sites and servers etc. Thanks to Rob Yuretich who moved the site and is hosting it via his business [www.goaskrob.com](http://www.goaskrob.com). If you or someone you know has need of a website, web related services or graphic design help please give Rob a call, he does quality work. His donation of these services to the chapter are greatly appreciated and we'd like to help

him out with some paying business if we can! We've also gotten some reports of people having issues getting to the new site when using search engines. We've been in contact with the Muskies Inc Webmaster to get the old site completely taken down. This was supposed to have happened months ago, but its in the process now. We should also have some exciting news soon as the website gets updated info on it, including the ability to take online payments! This will be a great feature to help many people get signed up for the tournament and to allow us to at some point have an online "store" to sell a few items!

## Chapter Officers

The officer's lineup will remain the same for 2013 as they were for 2012. No one presented any other nominations so the existing officers all agreed to stay on board. There has been one additional person added to the chapters list of hard workers, Ethan Rogers has been named Tournament Co-Chair and Fundraising Specialist. Ethan did a ton of work last year for the club and has a bunch of really great ideas for this year also. He has also accepted the Release Contest responsibilities.

## Spring Banquets and the MN Muskie Expo

There were a lot of banquets this spring, chapter members made it to lots of them! We had great attendance at both the Brainerd and Grand Rapids events while our presence was more limited at the North Metro, Twin Cites and Lake Superior events. Needless to say, we came out pretty big winners overall. Two guide trips were won (with Jason Hamernick and Mike Hulbert), rods, tons of baits and other outdoor equipment. Ed and his wife did real well in Brainerd, winning an Aqua Vu Micro and Ed also cleaned up in Grand Rapids, literally cleaned up, he won almost every other drawing all night and needed multiple people to help haul all his stuff out to the truck! We all had lots of fun and these are always a great way to show support for the other chapters. We promoted our chapter tourney at all of them and should get a nice increase in participation as a result!

As always the MN Muskie Expo in early April was great and had one of if not the largest turnout ever. A lot of donations were secured for prizes at the chapter tournament, lots of great baits were purchased by chapter members, and of course there was general excitement shared for the upcoming season.

## 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 Tournament

Info is attached/in the newsletter. So far we have 10 guide trips donated and literally thousands of dollars in premium muskie lures to give away during the after tournament raffle. Bring lots of cash, you're going to want some of these trips and lures! More stuff like local gift certs and other items are being collected daily! Plan to be there!

## Chapter Contact Info

Rory Potter – 2183682688  
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Brian Johnson – 2187605867  
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Chris Thury – 6125909785  
[cthur@midco.net](mailto:cthur@midco.net)

You can also get chapter info on outings, the tournament and contacts on our website at [www.BemidjiCassMuskies.org](http://www.BemidjiCassMuskies.org)

Brian Johnson, Chapter 46 Secretary

# Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 mixed up the schedule a little again, and all outings will now be on Sundays (except the chapter tournament).

- June 15 (Saturday) - Chapter Tournament**
- July 14 (Sunday) – Big Mantrap (12pm-8pm)**
- August 11 (Sunday) – Cass Lake Chain (11am-7pm)**
- September 22 (Sunday) – Leech Lake (11am-7pm)**
- October 20 (Sunday) – Plantagenet (9am-5pm)**
- November 17 (Sunday) – Bemidji (9:30am-5:30pm)**

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, or at least are scheduled where we can hit a few key “bites” during the outing. The dates were selected to avoid conflicts with other known muskie events.

Points will be awarded as follows:

		Fish Pts	30-39.99in	40-44.99in	45-47.99in	48in	49in	50in	51in	52in	53in	54in	55in	56in	57in	58in	59in
Attendance (member)	1pt																
Netman	1pt																
Bring a new/non-member (One time only per new person)	3pts																

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.

# BEMIDJI - CASS - BIG - PLANTAGENET

**15TH  
ANNUAL**

# MUSKIE TOURNAMENT



## SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2013

### ENTRY FEES:

**\$45 ADULTS / \$25 YOUTH (17 & Under)**

**\*\*If you register by June 1st\*\***

**\$50 ADULTS / \$30 YOUTH (17 & Under)**

**\*\*If you register AFTER June 1st\*\***

Muskies Inc Chapters are invited to sign up for our Chapter Challenge! *\$50 per chapter*

### PRIZES AWARDED:

**1st - 4th Place**

**Largest Released Muskie**

**Largest Released Muskie - Youth**

### SCHEDULE:

**5:00 am - Fishing Starts**

**4:00 pm - Fishing Ends**

**5:00 pm - Hamburger Feed**

*(Fish Registration Deadline)*

**6:00 pm - Award Presentations\***

**\*All prizes must be claimed in person during the awards ceremony at Beltrami County Fairgrounds after the tournament.**

### TOURNEY REGISTRATION:

**June 13 & 14, 2013**

Gander Mountain - Bemidji, MN

**5:00-8:00 pm**

Reeds Sports - Walker, MN

**3:00-6:00 pm**

Contact Rory Potter if any questions at (218) 335-8597 or (218) 368-2688

Visit our website to download the registration forms/info:

<http://www.bemidjicassmuskies.org>

### TOURNEY HEADQUARTERS:

**Beltrami County Fairgrounds**

7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

*(3 miles north of Bemidji Walmart on Hwy 71N)*

**THIS IS A CHAPTER FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE BEMIDJI/CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES, INC.**

A minimum of \$1,000 of the proceeds will be applied to a **BSU SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### SPONSORS:

**Wal-Mart • Pepsi Nei Bottling • Arrow Printing • Gander Mountain  
Reeds Sports • Northland Tackle • Shriver Lures • Nail Tail Lures • Willberg Auto  
Banner Man • Northern Tool • Pinnacle Publishing • Go Ask Rob**