

Schara's 'Minnesota Bound' television program lands in new book

About the book, program

Ron Schara's new book, "Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound," includes 95 of his original television scripts along with photos converted from video footage. The 273-page book features many prominent Northland outdoors figures and locations. Among them are Hawk Ridge, the North Shore, Isle Royale, Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Ely explorer Will Steger, the late author and angler Bob Cary of Ely, Rainy Lake fishing guide Barry "Fairly Reliable Woody" Woods and Leech Lake guide Al Maas. The book, published by Tristan Outdoors, retails for \$19.95.

"Minnesota Bound," Schara's half-hour weekly outdoors program, airs in Duluth at 6 a.m. Sunday on KDLH-TV Channel 3 and on cable at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays on My Nine (Charter Communications Channel 9).



BY SAM COOK

NEWS TRIBUNE OUTDOORS WRITER

After nearly 40 years of covering the outdoors for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, Ron Schara plans to call it quits. He currently writes a weekly column for the newspaper's outdoor section, and his final column probably will appear Dec. 30.

But Schara, 65, has no plans to retire. He will continue to produce and write his popular "Minnesota Bound" television outdoor program. The show, now in its 13th year, averages 200,000 viewers per week on KARE-TV Channel 11 in the Twin Cities, and airs on other stations in Duluth, Rochester, Mankato and Fargo, N.D. In addition,

Schara produces and hosts the outdoor fishing program "Backroads with Ron and Raven" on the Versus Network, "Pheasants Forever Television" and a television program for the Fox Sports Network.

His new book, "Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound," is a compilation of scripts and color photos from 11 years of "Minnesota Bound" programs. As usual, he shares the spotlight with his black Lab, Raven.

It's been quite a ride for guy who grew up in small-town Iowa and started his career as a nightclub singer. Just days before leaving to tape a fishing program on the Amazon River, Schara took a few moments to visit with the News Tribune.

Q. How did you happen to do a book about your Minnesota Bound shows?

A. I've always been a big fan of Charles Kuralt. He did a book of his more famous TV scripts, with the different voices in different typefaces. And the technology has improved so much for video grabs [still photographs from videotape]. It was a neat experience to go back through 10 or 11 years of scripts and see what held up.

More with Ron Schara on PAGE B3