

The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

January 2005

Next Meeting – USCG Boat Safety Course

The next two meetings will be held at the Hopkins VFW, as usual, but will begin earlier at 6:30 in order to make time for a USCG Boat Safety Course that is being offered to members of the club. The class will run from 7pm-10pm at both the January and February meetings, and will cover all topics related to boating, including operation, equipment, maintenance, and safety. The course costs \$40 for both nights by check or cash, and may allow you to reduce your insurance costs, although Old Fart seems reluctant to agree. This is not a mandatory class, and members that are not interested may leave after the club's business meeting.

Dues are Due

The yearly club dues of \$75 are due at the January meeting, or as soon as you can get them to Old Fart. For those going to Lake of the Woods this summer, that deposit is also \$75 to the Waterdogs. For a measly \$150, you can enjoy the fun and education that the club membership offers, and maybe even catch the fish of a lifetime. I recall a few guys doing just that last year.

President's Corner: Doug Squire



Well for those of us who love to ice fish this has been a rough winter or (lack thereof). I could have kept my boat out of storage for about 6 extra weeks, as most of the city lakes were ice free until mid December. Maybe we should plan a November tournament next year? As I write this message today I noticed the truck thermometer this morning read minus 4 degrees. So we might get some good ice by Christmas if this keeps up. For me I'm not much into ice fishing but I try to at least get out once a year, typically I rent a house on Mille Lacs. Hopefully I'll have some fishing to report on next month.

I'm looking forward to 2005 season. We had the elections for the board and V.P at last month's meeting and I feel we have another great group of guys elected. I'm just a strong

The 2005 Waterdog Calendar Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

Jan 6	Monthly Meeting
Feb 3	Monthly Meeting
March 3	Monthly Meeting
March 19	Trout Tourney
April 7	Monthly Meeting
April 30	Crappie Tourney
May 5	Monthly Meeting
June 2	Monthly Meeting
June 4-5	Walleye Tourney
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-S Tourney
July 7	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30	RockNRoll Musky Tour
Aug 4	Monthly Meeting
Aug 20	Bass Tourney
Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 17	Musky/Pike Tourney
Oct 6	Monthly Meeting
Nov 3	Annual Banquet

overhead cast away from V.P. Farm boy's house so I'm looking forward to strategizing with him this season. Rumor has it that this years V.P. is following in my footsteps by purchasing a new boat this month. Way to go Farm boy! Thanks Kris (Steve's wife) for finally giving into all the Waterdog pressure.

The tournament committee is meeting this week to start the process of picking tournament lakes for next year. We had 13 guys sign up for tournament committee this year, so I'm sure we will get some fresh ideas. With the survey that Duper put together last fall this group as got a good baseline of ideas to draw from. I'm hoping that they might get these picked this month so we can get the dates out to everyone in January.

Our secretary Mr. Hennessy passed out our updated Waterdog bylaws last month. It has been a while since we had these updated. This document is really the foundation on which our club operators, so take a minute and go through it. It also has a little history from past tournaments, which bring back some great memories from tournaments past.

Even though the ice is just beginning to get thick, it can't come soon enough when the boat comes out of storage and is back on the water. I hope everyone had a great holiday and I'll see you at January's meeting.

Momma's Boy

New Club Officers Elected

Voting for the 2005 VP (and 2006 President) was held at the December meeting, and after a furious round of mud-slinging and denial, Farm Boy, aka Steve Haagenon, was elected VP. Also elected to the board were Griz, Juan, and Fishdick, with another president-appointed member to be announced later.

Club is Full with 30 Members

New Member, Rick Wagner joins the club this year, which gives us a full roster, with 2 on the waiting list. Rick is a friend of Griz, and also works at Fab-con with Griz and Felix.

Custom Waterdog Checks Available

Thanks to a contact made by Kojak, custom, Waterdog Logo checks are available for any bank checking account. Scott passed out the ordering forms at the last meeting, and will have more forms at the January meeting. Impress your creditors with a fishy check and they may release you from your obligations.

Waterdog Fantasy Fishing League

For the past few years I have been involved in a Fantasy Football league and thought it would be nice to have something like that for my other hobby of fishing. So here is my idea for the first WFFL season. I put together a few rules for the league. For those Dogs that maybe have been in a Fantasy Football league they probably are familiar with the format. For those of you, who haven't been involved in a fantasy league, give it a try it will be fun.

The basic idea is to make a Fantasy team up and we will use our club as the pool of fishermen to choose from. We will hold a draft before our tournament season begins and each team owner will pick or draft from the 30 club members. Points that are earned during our fishing season will be awarded to the team that owns that particular fisherman. Here are the rules:

- \$10.00 fee to be a team owner (100.00 collected will be paid back as prize money)
- 10 teams in the league with 3 fishermen on each team.
- For each tournament an owner must start 2 fishermen from his pool of 3. The fisherman that they want to use for each tournament need to be set 1 month prior to the beginning of that tournament.
- The points that those fishermen get in the tournament are awarded to the fantasy owner, and will accumulate throughout the season.
- Bonus points will also be awarded for the annual trip. 1 point for each muskie caught by that fishermen and 10 points to each of the largest fish pools that are won by those fishermen.
- Team owners cannot pick themselves on their team unless no other fisherman is available at that time of the draft.

The Fantasy team that collects the most points at the end of the year will win the \$100 prize money.

Sounds pretty simple don't you think? It's a little confusing to put on paper, but I'll do a much better job explaining at the January meeting. There's actual a little bit of strategy and a bit of luck need as well to put up a good fantasy score. Having a fantasy team will make you root for your fellow club members to score well in tournaments and put a little pressure on them to make events. I'll check the interest level in putting together a WFFL together at next months meeting.

Mamma's Boy

2005 Tournament Series Set:

As decreed by the Tournament Committee, and not open to debate or change, the following has been decided upon:

- 6 Tournaments this year, and all of them count.
- Every Tournament will be a Team Tournament. (No individual tournaments.)
- The last tournament of the year will have first-last pairings.
- For a Team to win first place and receive points accordingly, that team will have to present to the Club their techniques, approaches and choice of tackle at the following month's Club meeting.
- The two-point bonus for the big fish will continue for 2006.

The schedule is below, and will appear at the end of each future Dogumentary.

Waterdogs 2005 Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars and Let's Go!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
March 19 (Sat)	Trout	Root River (Preston-Forestville area)	Mueller – Keller
April 30 (Sat)	Crappie	Prior Lake	Dupont – Karsjens
June 4-5 (Sat-Sun)	Walleye	St Louis River – Duluth	Hennessey – Miller
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-species	Minnetonka	Blakely – Ferstenou
Aug 20 (Sat)	Bass	Rush Lake by Rush City	Lantto – Johnson
Sep 17 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Mille Lacs	Leibroch - Haagenson

Muskypalooza: RockNRoll Musky Tour 2005

By Suzy

The planning has begun for the 2005 LOTW annual trip. So far, 18 Dogs have confirmed their intention of attending next year's trip. The LOTW planning committee is still waiting to hear back from about ten more Dogs and guests.

Unfortunately, Chris Covert (Southern Man) won't be able to attend this year. But, we will have some new faces on the trip, including John (Dr. Meat) Schaffhausen, Kevin (Bud) Miller, and maybe (cross your fingers) Bob (Rocky) Liebrock.

Based on the responses to the questionnaire that was sent out in December, the planning committee is going to reserve six rooms at a motel in Warroad for a group of Dogs who want to leave on Friday afternoon, stay in Warroad Friday night, and then drive in on Saturday morning to get in a full day of fishing.

Likewise, the rest of the trip participants will leave at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning from the traditional spot, McDonalds (at the Rogers exit off of I-94), and meet the early group at Angle Outpost on Saturday afternoon (around 2:30 p.m.)

Other notes/changes: We will not do the Hot Wings event, unless someone would like to step up to the plate and take charge of that

event. And, while there's interest in doing a fish fry/shore lunch, there were an equal number of guys who don't want to spend time fishing for walleyes. So again, if there's a group of guys who do want to fish for walleyes and would like to host that event, please let Duper know.

Other changes for 2005: 1.) All cabins will purchase their own steaks, 2.) The Grand Slam event will be extended to a boat team, as well as an individual, 3.) If there's a tie for the largest fish in any category, the big pot money will be split equally.

Last-Minit Muskies:

Late in the season, the musky fishing can be good on Lake Harriet, which freezes up later than most lakes in the area. This year, it froze on December 17, and before then, a few Dogs were able to get out for one last open-water fling. Duper and Fishdick managed one 38" musky on Dec 4, but a week later on Dec 11, Nasty, Felix and Fishdick were skunked for the few-hour trip. The usual method late in the year is to slow troll noisy crankbaits, usually Wiggle Warts, on the 12-14' weedline. In past years, 3 and 4-musky trips have been seen, along with walleyes up to 30", but this year turned out to be slower than average. There is a contingency of noisy regulars who fish suckers from shore in one spot where the contour comes in close, and they also catch muskies there. On the last trip this year, Libby and her dad were among the sucker soakers on shore, which gave Mr. Libby enough people to talk to that he didn't notice the Waterdog boat.



Harriet 38 from 12/12/04

Harriet and Calhoun are good fall lakes that freeze up late, and no longer require a permit to launch on. The parking in lots is restricted to

'patrons', but street parking is no problem this time of year. It's a good way to keep fishing till ice-up, even after your motor has been winterized, as the city lakes are trolling motor only. Keep this late-season potential in mind for next year. Calhoun gets less pressure due to the inconvenience of the landing, but is where the state record tiger musky came from a few years ago.

First Ice Ferstenou:

I got out on the ice for the first time this season on Sunday (12/26/04). I fished from noon until 2:30 PM on Stump Lake (near Rice Lake, WI) with my cousin's husband, my seven year-old cousin and my 12 year old 2nd cousin. It was the first time either of the kids had been on a frozen lake, let alone ice fishing (the 12 year old lives in Alabama, so this was really new for him). We fished with one adult and one kid in each portable shack with one line each using ice jigs and wax worms, we also set out four tip-ups with shiner minnows for northern pike.

We had barely started fishing when the first tip-up went off. Moments later I landed a chunky 31" pike while showing the kids how to use the tip-ups. We had three other flags throughout the day, but the kids were not able to get the hooks into any of them. The bluegills cooperated nicely all afternoon and everyone caught a lot of fish. We released three to four times as many fish as we kept, but we still went home with 67 nice bluegills, two crappies and one northern pike.



Ice Fishing Fun

It was fun for my cousin's husband and I to be able to show both of them something new and they both had a good time. I thought for a moment that our day might be over before we got started, though. Just after we got there I

showed my seven year-old cousin how to clean out the holes with an ice scoop and put him to work. A few minutes later he showed me the first hole that he had done and asked if it was good enough. I said yes and directed him to scoop out the second hole for the shack, which he made quick work of. He then took one step backwards without looking and, you guessed it, put his foot and leg (right up to his crotch) into the first hole. I grabbed him and pulled him out as quick as I could, but he was soaked. I asked him if he wanted to go, but he said no, so I told him that if he started to get cold at all, to let me know and we could always come out another day. As it turned out, he was quite a trooper and was able to stay warm enough in the shack to fish the entire afternoon until the time when we had originally planned to leave. Not exactly an ideal introduction to the sport, but I'm sure he learned a valuable lesson from it. Despite the incident, he was still enthusiastic at the end of the day and wondering when we could go again.

Dear Suzy
Solving Your Fishing Etiquette Dilemmas

Dear Ms. Suzy: I'm a new guy to the club. I don't want to ask anyone, because it would be awfully embarrassing, but I'm wondering how to handle expenses between me and my fishing partner such as during a Waterdogs' tournament or during the annual Lake of the Woods trip?

Ms. Suzy says: Are you telling me that if you were lost, you'd drive a 100 miles before bothering to stop at a gas station and ask for directions, much less buy a frickin' road map? Come on. Just ask one of the guys at the next meeting. Well, to be honest, I was a newbie once, too, and I didn't ask anyone and then, one day, one of my dear brother captains pulled me aside shared the "unwritten" rules. Anyway, here you go. Gas: Our bylaws say that fishing partners should split the costs 50-50. Generally, as a Little Buddy, for a local tournament, I'll offer \$20 and for an overnight trip, I'll offer to fill up the captain's truck or boat at the gas station. Food: As the Little Buddy, I always offer to bring a sandwich and a few snacks (the captain can always refuse), and pay for the captain's lunch (whether the Food Committee provides the food or we at a nearby restaurant). I think the Little Buddies should

always take it upon themselves to bring donuts for those early morning drives to the lake. License fees: You pay for your own. Bait: Generally, if you're buying less than \$7 in bait, the Little Buddy should pick this up. More than that, the fishing partners should split the costs. Hotel/Motel: Split the cost of the room.



'Shape Up!' says Suzy,,,er Libby