

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

January 2007

January Meeting

The January meeting will be held at the Hopkins VFW, with dinner at 6:00 and the meeting starting at 7. A speaker is undecided at press time, so it may turn out to be you. Come prepared to give an hour-long talk, just in case.

The 2007 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Jan 4	Monthly Meeting
Jan 13-14	Schara Kids Clinic
Feb 1	Monthly Meeting
Mar 1	Monthly Meeting
Mar 17	Trout Tournament
Apr 5	Monthly Meeting
Apr 28	Crappie Tournament
May 3	Monthly Meeting
June 2-3	Walleye Tournament
June 7	Monthly Meeting
June 15-16	Bass Tournament
July 5 ?	Monthly Meeting
July 21-28 '07	LOTW Musky Tour
Aug 2	Monthly Meeting
Aug 18	Multi-Species Tournament
Sep 6	Monthly Meeting
Sep 15	Musky/NP Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Nov 2	Annual Banquet
Dec 6	Monthly Meeting

The tournament details are on the last page of each Dogumentary.

Dog Bodies Wanted

The Ron Schara Kids Clinic is again requesting the help of the Waterdogs with the Kids Fishing Clinic at the St. Paul Sportshow on Saturday and Sunday, Jan 13 and 14. The hours are 11:00 am-1:00 pm on Saturday and 12:00 – 1:30 pm on Sunday. Plan on being part of the fun in our now traditional special services event. More details will follow at the meeting.

President's Corner – James Ferstenou



Well, the holidays are now behind us. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to spend time with family, friends and loved ones. With the beginning of the New Year comes an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and an opportunity to ponder the year ahead.

The past year in the club was great. The tournament series was enjoyable, the camaraderie was fantastic, participation in club events was up from previous years and Farmboy did an excellent job guiding us through it all. I only hope that I can come close to his level of leadership during my year as the Waterdogs President. Great job Farmboy.

Looking at the year ahead I'd like to encourage all of you to continue the high level of participation in club events. Mark the monthly meetings, tournament dates, special service events and the Lake of the Woods trip on your new calendars and try to make as many of them as you can. I encourage all of you to be

as active in the club as you can commit to being. That is what makes being a Waterdog an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Sign up for several committees. Bring new ideas to the club for special service projects. Share your thoughts, ideas and fishing techniques. Suggest topics for future speakers to present at the monthly meetings or suggest guest speakers if you know someone. Voice your opinions to spark discussions at the monthly meetings. It's all of the little things like those above (and more) that we can all do to make our time shared with each other all the more enjoyable, rewarding and educational.

On another note, the cold snap that we had in early December brought an early start to this Winter's ice fishing season. Unfortunately for those of us that like to ice fish, it has been followed by an unseasonably warm stretch of weather that has left ice conditions around or even slightly behind normal thickness for this time of year. I have not had a chance to venture out on the ice yet this season as of the writing of this column, but my truck is packed and that will be changing in the coming weekends. I have several outings planned and I'm sure that many impromptu outings will occur as well. I'll do my best to keep you all up to date with fishing reports via e-mail or in the Dogumentary throughout the ice-fishing season (and throughout the year for that matter). I would also encourage the rest of you to do the same. A quick e-mail to the club to share where you've been fishing, lures used, most productive fishing times, depths, colors etc. will help all of us learn more and make more efficient use of our time on the water this year.

I know that there are many of you in the club that ice fish on occasion and many more that do not ice fish at all (or very little). I don't claim to be an expert, but I truly enjoy it and I spend a fair amount of time on the ice each year. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors and extend your fishing season. I'd like to extend an open invite to all club members to get out ice fishing. If you'd like to get out on the ice with me this season, please let me know. I'll do my best to accommodate all requests. If you do not own any ice fishing gear, that's not a problem. All you'll need are warm clothes and a positive attitude. As any of you that have fished with me in the open water season can probably

guess, I have enough ice fishing equipment to outfit myself and two or three additional anglers on any given outing. Let's hit the ice and give it a try.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the newest Waterdog, Dave Haberle, to the club. Dave comes to the club via Kirk Duholm's recommendation. He is a multi-species fisherman that is excited to see what we are all about. Please take a moment at the January meeting to introduce yourself to Dave and welcome him to the club.

That's all for now. Until next month, keep your lures in the water and your hooks sharp.

Griz

Little Angel Elected 2007 VP

In a hotly contested and close race, Scott Squire edged out his two challengers for club VP in 2007, and the president spot in 2008. Well, maybe it wasn't quite that dramatic, but we are pleased that Scott has stepped up to the top leadership job in the club after being a part of other club committees in the past, such as most recently putting together the banquet slide show, which is a big job in itself. We look forward to the year of the Griz-Angel team, where anything can happen, and probably will.



VP-Elect Little Angel

In other election news, the club voted in The Perp, Dr Meat, and Rocky to the board, along with the president, vp, and last year's president as chairman. Meetings will be scheduled as necessary, so if you have any issues, contact one of our board representatives for a possible resolution.

New Waterpup Joins the Family

Welcome Aidan Happel ! Lean and buff at 5 lb 15 oz, he was a personal best for Jen and Branden Happel. On the official Dogs scale he measured 20.5 inches, and is a Keeper!



The Documentary Interview: Branden "Banana Boy" Happel

By Suzy



Name: *Branden Happel*
Handle: *Banana Boy*
Where you live: *City of Columbia Heights*
Hometown: *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*
Where you work: *Toro Company*
What you do at work: *Corporate public relations*
Where you went to college/high school: *University of Northern Iowa*

Spouse's name: *Jen*
Kids: *Aidan, Baby!*
Pet: *Maddie, our yellow lab*
Favorite fishing rod: *St. Croix*
Favorite fishing lure: *Salmo "Fatso "*
Favorite fishing reel: *Shimano Symetre*
Favorite species to fish for: *After this year – MUSKIE! Smallmouth is also at the top of my list*

Favorite restaurant: *Nami*
Favorite beverage: *Grainbelt*
Favorite cut of meat: *Filet (beef)*
Last book you read: *Green Eggs & Ham*
Favorite fishing pro: *Bob Dickey*

What you do for fun when you're not fishing: *Spend time with family and friends...golf, hunt and camp*
Favorite body of water to fish on: *Big Winnie*
Your boat: 16 ft. *Four Winns*
Your dream boat: *Lund – good for family and fishing*
Favorite moment fishing with a Waterdog: *Too many to name – but my personal best muskie this fall on Minnetonka is up there*
One of your all-time favorite fishing memories: *Going fishing with my grandma*
Word that best describes you: *High energy*
Favorite dessert: *Apple pie*
Wilma or Betty? *Hands down - Betty*

Your fishing vehicle (for towing your boat or your dream boat): *Chevy Tahoe*
Favorite fishing magazine: *In Fisherman*
Favorite fishing TV show: *Fishing with Virgil Ward*
Favorite fishing radio program: *FAN Outdoors*
Volunteer or community activities (other than Waterdogs): *Public Relations Society of America*
Topwater or plastic worming? *Topwater – no question!*

Biggest musky: (by length or weight) *49.5"*
Biggest northern pike: *37"*
Biggest walleye: *15"*
Biggest l.m. bass: *20"*
Biggest smallmouth bass: *19"*
What fishing "personal best" would you like to hit in the coming year? *Bass*
Why you like being part of the Waterdogs: *Camaraderie*

While You were at Lake of the Woods

Kevin 'Bud' Miller was at his family's spread in Montana, where his family has vacationed each year about the time that the club is at Lake of the Woods. Below is Kevin's account of his trip last year:

Fishing in my father-in-laws pond on Rock Creek in Montana, using a 2X tipit, 8ft. graphite Loomis rod with a prince nymph. You might think fishing in a pond means easy fishing, but these fish are very leery and tough to fool. The pond is crystal clear it takes a gentle cast to not disturb the water and spook the fish. There has been many an experienced trout fisherman that has walked away from that pond unfulfilled. It's a challenge for me to get a couple of them every time I visit. There are big browns in the pond, but I have never caught one. The biggest fish tale from the pond was a Dolly Vardon that was 28 inches! The fish come into the pond via an irrigation ditch that comes off a stream called Ranch Creek. When the Moose get in the pond the water gets dirty, and it's impossible to fish. My Father in law sold this pond this Summer, so it might be the last fish I am going get for awhile.



Kevin with a 22" Rainbow



**Bullwinkle Stops by for a Chat
"How's Fishin?"**

The Weenie Wanna-Be

By Fishdique

This is a story that pre-dates the official Weenie Award, as it happened before Shorty, Fluffy and many of the other recent weenie contenders were club members. But I think you'll agree that if it happened today, it would be a tough act to beat.

In past years, I used to take some of the brokers from our St. Cloud office fishing, and an easy place to meet was in between at Clearwater Lake, a sometimes easy place to catch bass. On one of these outings, I took a broker named Wayne out, who was much more of a hunter than a fisherman. It was a Saturday with no wind and a nice drizzle, just perfect for fishing.

We put in at the usual access by Bob's restaurant, in my old low-sider Alumacraft with a 35. We put on our rain gear to stay dry, although otherwise, it was a warm June day. We started casting spinnerbaits just out from the access, and after watching Wayne cast his Zebco with the brittle and coiled line, I offered up one of my baitcasters to use. Wayne is a strapping athletic-type of guy, kind of like Brandon, only with blonde hair, who golfs and plays basketball and other sports. I thought he could handle the Ambassador just fine, but kept an eye on him anyway.

About ten minutes later, I saw Wayne fumble the rod as he changed hands, and over the side it went into about 12 feet of water. Without hesitating or saying a word, over Wayne went, too, head-first, about 2 feet behind the rod. He popped back up in a second, holding the rod high over his head. I helped him back into the boat and we putted back to the access.

Any normal person would have been done for the day, but not Wayne. We walked back to his pickup truck, and he opened the back, where there was a large suitcase. Inside were clothes for every occasion, as Wayne was a salesman and a single guy, who had apparently been caught short of the appropriate attire before. He even had a bath towel in there, and proceeded to take off all his wet clothes and then dry off naked at the access. It's ironic that Wayne had everything

he'd ever need with him, but I didn't even have my camera – Idiot!

In Wayne's suitcase were dress clothes to casual clothes, including a dry change for fishing and even more weatherproof hunting gear. In a few minutes, we were back out fishing again, and ended up catching some

nice bass that day. So a potential disaster was saved by some over-the-top planning ahead. All ended well, except for the fact that I can still see Wayne standing there naked and laughing at the public access – argh!

 The tournament Committee has already put together the schedule for 2007, which is a good thing, since the first tournament is just a little over two months away! This year, you will find six tournaments instead of the 7 of the past few years, and only one over-nighter, as having two of them seemed to be cutting into the attendance. Once again, all the tournaments will be team events. The bidding to be Nasty's partner will start at the January meeting.

Waterdogs Fishing Club 2007 Tournament Schedule

Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
March 17 (alt. 3/31)	Trout	Kinni, Rush – WI	Janitor, OF
April 28	Crappie	Minnetonka	Perp, Mamas Boy, OJ
June 2-3	Walleye	St Louis River (O/N)	Griz, Nasty, Chips
June 15-16 (Fri-Sat)	Bass	Carver Co Lakes	Banana, Carmen, Felix
August 18	Multi	Pepin	Bubble, Bertha, Bud
September 15	Musky/NP	Waconia + others	Suzy, Rocky, Buick

And now for the good news: The Minnesota Winter Trout Stream Season opens January 1st. This year has the same rules and regulations as previous years, barbless hooks, catch-and-release, etc., and is open on the following rivers:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/trout_streams/winter.html

Get out and shake off those winter blues and do a little practicing for our March tournament! Unfortunately, the Wisconsin season does not open until March 1.