

# The Dogumentary

29th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

January 2011

Early to bed Early to rise Fish all day Tell big lies

## January 2011 Meeting

The January meeting will be at Tuttle's Grill and Bowling Alley on Shady Oak Road in Hopkins. Joining us will be three new members: Glenn Johnson, Peter Yawn, and Steve Clinton as we aim to increase the club size to 34.

Our speakers for January are Steve Hanson and Jon Marshall from MarCum Technologies / Showdown who will talk about new technology in depthfinders.

## *From the Desk of the President, Captain Kirk*



## 2011 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Jan 6 2011	Monthly Meeting
Jan 15-16	Schara Kids Clinic @ SP Show
Feb 3	Monthly Meeting
March 3	Monthly Meeting
April 2 (or 9)	Trout Tournament
April 7	Monthly Meeting
April 30 (5/7)	Crappie Tournament
May 5	Monthly Meeting
May 21-22	Walleye Tournament
June 2	Monthly Meeting
June 18	Bass Tournament
July 7	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30	Rock N Roll Musky Tour
August 4	Monthly Meeting
Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 10	Multispecies Tournament
Oct 8	Smallmouth Tournament
Nov 3	Banquet

## **Happy New Year to all!**

Fellow Waterdogs, I am pleased to report that as we go into 2011, the state of the Waterdogs Fishing Club couldn't be better. Unemployment among members has dropped as we enjoy close to 100% employment for those who would rather work than fish. We have a surplus in our treasury from years of living within our means. We thank the previous administration for their fiscal responsibility. In fact, we may be able to reduce our taxes as we bring in new members to tax and support our aging membership. Our Blind Squirrel Division has developed a new product that will soon be marketed internationally. We believe that there is a universal need for this new product known as The Pee Buddy and it should generate enough profitability to allow us to increase our quarterly dividends.

Our club is in this great position in spite of being rocked by the fish identification scandal during our Mega-Trash tournament this fall. That is where the team of Juan and OF tried to pass off a sucker as a

carp to gain an advantage over their competition. Our previous administration dealt with this issue diplomatically and asked them to not take pictures next time. Juan and OF have damaged their political aspirations by this act and it is likely that this skeleton will hang in their closets for a long time.

Seriously though, our club is thriving thanks to our well thought-out By-Laws, the leadership we have had and the strong participation of the membership. For 2011 we already have our tournaments scheduled and our committees organized. I sense a great deal of enthusiasm as we go into the New Year.

What's new in 2011? We have a new venue for two of our tournaments, we have three new members joining us and I am going to try and promote more sharing of fishing knowledge and experiences amongst our members. I hope to do this at our monthly meetings by setting aside a little more time for a show and tell not only by the tournament winners but also other members that have had recent fishing experiences.

While writing this first column for our news letter I have been thinking a lot about trout fishing. In fact FD and I have been trading emails today on how we might attack those winter Browns in this deep snow. As we all know FD is a big eBay fan and he has found some snowshoes for under \$100 that may enable us to get back off the path to some of our favorite holes. So watch for one of those 35 degree January or February thaws if you need a fishing fix and don't want to have to use an auger. I would be willing to bet that Fluffee already has got his tackle and cigars in the car ready to go. The MN winter trout season will be open by the time you read this.

I look forward to seeing all of you and meeting our new members at Tuttle's this Thursday as we start building another year memories and new friendships.

Shatner

### **Dues are Due**

Dues for 2011 are \$75, and the LOTW deposit is \$150 for all that are going. Those not in compliance will be held in a small room with OF after one of his melon-eating binges.

### **Schara Kids Clinic is Jan 15&16**

Once again, the club will be helping out Ron Schara at his Kids Clinic at the St. Paul Sportshow on Saturday and Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January. We had a great turnout last year and look to do the same this year. Chainsaw will have more details at the January meeting and will take indications of who will be attending each day.

### **Greenstick Elected VP**

After a hotly contested debate, Greenstick won the VP election with his novel particle-board "platform". We now have a situation where the top officers in the club are brothers-in-law, so we could have some family bickering to deal with. Maybe we'll need to elect a Club Marshal to maintain order at the meetings.

Also elected to the board of Directors were Banana Boy, Carmen, and Dr. Meat, which makes it a "Party Cabin Board", and another reason we might need a Club Marshal.

### **Learning from the Vexilar**

By Father Bertha

I have had real good success ice fishing on my Monday's off in December. The first two Mondays, I spent ice fishing for crappies and limited out in the middle of the day, in about an hour. My usual operation is to go out and drill holes over the deepest area of the lake. Both lakes I fish are pretty small in acreage and have a deep basin that goes to 28 to 30 feet. So I drill from 24 feet on up, and sometimes a little shallower. Then I walk around with the Vexilar and look for blips on the sonar that are usually crappies. A good school will have many reds and green marks. You want to fish those. Sometimes one blip you see later in the day will end up being your hot hole. Anyway, in past I would work the different holes and mark the hot holes and then fish those hard at prime time. I did not need to do that, both times I've been out this year. The fish have been hot and ready to go. The nuggies worked great. But no matter what you use, you want to work it above the fish which makes the Vexilar a great tool. You dance your bait around about 5 feet above the school, and an active fish will come up and smack it. If it does not, then you have to keep working it and see how the fish respond, or maybe try changing the presentation. If that does not work change baits/lure. Sometimes

you just have to wait until the fish turn on. The one thing I did during the hot bite was to mess around with different baits etc. But if the bait was not presented perfectly they would not hit it - minnow on wrong, nuggie not on jig right, etc., they would come up to it but not take it.

The same thing happened on my trip this past week to LOTW. I went up to LOTW with some parishioners, one of whom had a cabin and the set-up for doing it right. We traveled around from spot to spot on snowmobiles and had a great time. I caught over 20 walleyes. The one thing I found out is that they wanted a lively fresh minnow even on my jiggling spoon, no dead stuff or half-dead. And again, I would watch them on the Vexilar. If they came in checked it out and did not hit, I reeled up

the jig and looked at the bait. Almost always there was something wrong, the minnow was foul hooked or not on there right. I put on a new lively minnow and dropped it in and jiggled it, and bam...fish on.

Anyway, it shows you that you need to change baits often and if you are not getting bit, there is usually something wrong. Don't just keep doing the same thing, but change things up and keep checking your bait and learn what they want.

## 2011 Tournament Series

### Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dogs in Charge</b>
Saturday April 2 (4/9 Alt)	Trout	Wisconsin	Janitor - Shatner
Saturday April 30 (5/7 Alt)	Crappie	Prior Lake	Griz – Banana - Suzy
Sat-Sun May 21-22	Walleye/Lake Trout	Grand Rapids MN	Fluffy - Carmen - Lil Angel
Saturday June 18	Bass	Pelican Lk Albertville	Analist - Bud
Saturday Sep 10	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Chips - Spanky
Saturday Oct 8	Smallmouth	Rum River	Perp - Buick