

The Dogumentary

31stYear

The Of-fish-ial Mouthpiece of the Waterdogs Fishing Club

January 2013

January Meeting

We'll see you at Tuttle's on Thursday Jan 3. Our speaker will be Ron Schara who has been given permission to ramble as he pleases.

the meetings. All will be at Tuttle's as usual on the first Thursday of the month with the exceptions of July (Thorne Bros) and November (Banquet).

2013 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Jan 1	MN Trout on the Crik opens
Jan 3	Monthly Meeting
Jan 12	Schara Kid's Fishing School
Jan 13	Schara Kid's Fishing School
Feb 7	Monthly Meeting
March 1	Wisconsin Trout opens
Mar 7	Monthly Meeting
March 16	Wisconsin Trout 1
Apr 4	Monthly Meeting
April 6	Wisconsin Trout 2
April 20	Trout Backup Date
May 2	Monthly Meeting

See the last page for 2013 Tourney Schedule

*From the Desk of the President,
Dr. Meat/John Schauffhausen*

Well here we go! Happy New Year and welcome to 2013. You all know what that means...time to pay dues, put your deposit down for Lake of the Woods, update your passports, and get your RABC! Thanks to Fluffee and the tournament committee we have the dates set for all of the tournaments so get them on your calendars now. It looks to be a sound lineup and should be fun with some new twists thrown in to keep you on your toes. My personal goal will be to make every tournament and I hope turn out continues to be high. Along with the tournaments, don't forget



Ron Schara will be our first speaker this year. As you all know the 43rd Annual Minnesota Sportsmen's Show is coming up and once again we will be helping out at the Kids Fishing School (11 am on 1/12 and Noon on 1/13). I have always felt that this is a great way for the club to help promote fishing. As you know the club by-laws state there should be two special events every year. I would like you all to be on the lookout for other such activities. I hope that this year we can come up with a new special project that we continue from year to

year, much like we did in the past with rebuilding rods. I would prefer something that has the following characteristics: easy for all to participate, boats not required, and not weather dependent. Any and all ideas are welcome and can be discussed at the January meeting. Maybe Ron may have some ideas for us as well.

At the December meeting we had a good turnout and committees are being formed. I would like to hear from those not at the meeting as to what committees you can join. Food and Special Services seemed to have the fewest members on the signup sheet. I plan to pass out the organization chart at the meeting and everyone can look at where they can help.

I would like to thank Juan Valdez for taking over the task of the Dogumentary. I hope everyone gets him good photos of any ice fishing and those early season trout. Thanks as well to Greenstick, Chairman of the Board, for providing me with a little organization. I will do my best to keep the master book up to date and hand it over the Banana Boy at the end of the year.

If anyone has any concerns, suggestions, or anything for the Board to discuss just let me know. Let's have a great 2013!

Dr. Meat

Thanksgiving Muskies

By Buick

Dedicated Fall muskie fishermen like myself know that most weekends are spent mindlessly sifting the water hoping for a muskie to at least show her face – a boost of confidence that maybe we are doing it right but the girls aren't in the mood. So when a classic storm front is fast approaching with forecasts of dropping temperatures and snow by night fall, you just gotta take advantage of the opportunity being present to you. Right? Well, I and a buddy of mine Craig Hall and Craig's 17-year old son, Jack decided that the opportunity of the season was going to present itself on Thanksgiving morning. Temperatures this Fall were very cold but the week leading up to Thanksgiving had been unseasonably warm mid-50°F. But the weatherman all week had been predicting a huge Thanksgiving storm with up to 12 inches of snow. But before I tell

the tale of our Thanksgiving, let me digress about 15 years....

Craig and I have been muskie fishing together since the late 1990s when Craig had offered to pay the entry fee for a Bone Lake musky tournament if I would agree to bring my boat and enough fishing gear for both of us. Craig was new to the sport but no stranger to fishing. The tournament started at 6am on the opening morning of Wisconsin's muskie season. The water was very cold and no one was catching muskies that morning. After getting cut off for the umpteenth time, I looked across the lake for a shoreline that no one was fishing and that's where we went. Pulling up at this deserted shoreline, I looked down and spotted a beautiful cabbage bed. In my excitement to throw my new banana-colored M & G out over the cabbage bed, I ended up overcasting succeeded in leaving myself with a massive birds nest. With my M & G lying on the bottom, I proceeded to work on that birds nest for at least 10 minutes. I finally got it out, stripped off 20 yards of line and quickly reeled in the slack. As I gave the line a good jerk to break it free from the weeds, out of the water shoots a musky with my M & G firmly anchored in the corner of its mouth! Shortly Craig netted a nice 42-incher and I was in the hunt! I quickly realized with no one catching fish, I had a good chance to place in this tournament! Needless to say, we fished until dark that night with not another fish to our names. I forced Craig to get up at the crack of dawn the next day so we could get a good start on the day before the tournament ended at Noon. Craig being new to casting musky baits for hours on end lasted about an hour before he pulled out a boat cushion and fell asleep on the back deck of my boat. I didn't catch another musky that day but I did place 10th out of approximately 200 fishermen (Wayne's World also fished the tournament and placed 5th or 6th as I recall). The winner ended up with a 48 and 50 that day – way out of my league back in the late 1990s.

Well, Craig caught muskie fever that weekend and ended up passing it on to his son Jack. We have been fishing 'Tonka together for the last few years. You gotta admire a kid like Jack that has the fever so bad, he got a job this past year at Cabin Fever in Victoria to earn money to buy more muskie baits. Jack thinks I'm some grizzle old muskie guide when I'm

just a weekend warrior like the rest of'm. But I play along and we have a lot of fun and occasionally catch a muskie or two.

So Craig sends me an e-mail a couple of days before Thanksgiving saying that he and Jack got permission to fish Thanksgiving morning and was I interested? The answer was I'll see you at the landing at 6am. We pushed off from the Three Rivers Park in Mound at 7am. The sunrise painted the eastern sky red – a forewarning of the impending winter storm.



The air temp was low-50 °F; the water was calm with a temp of 38 - 39 °F. Perfect and not another boat on the water. We decided that the best plan was to fish shallow using topwaters and small jerk baits. We hit our usual bars and rock points and then decided to work Hardscrabble – always a great late fall spot. Fairly quickly Craig had a follow and then another. I brought a fish along side the boat but couldn't turn her. Then Craig had a nibble, as I call it when a muskie hits and misses. We worked the area for awhile and then decided to move on. We fished a couple more spots and then I suggested we go back and hit Hardscrabble on the way back into Halstad's Bay. When we got back to Hardscrabble, Jack decided to snap on a florescent orange/black spot, 10-ich Suick. He cast up into a foot of water and had an aggressive fish follow his Suick back to the boat. Jack started his figure 8 when the muskie hit on the first turn. Craig jumped into action and quickly netted a nice, fat 41-incher.

After a quick measure and a picture Jack released the muskie that quickly swam away.



We fish the area a bit longer knowing that there was more than one muskie holding on Hardscrabble that day. But the excitement and noise we made pushed any remaining muskies off the point so we decided to move on. I suggested Halstad's. There is a nice gravel bar in the middle of the bay that is only fishable early and late in the season. For the remainder of the season, the water is skunky pea soup – just no fun to fish when there is so much clear water in the rest of the lake. By this time, approximately 10:30 am, the wind had started to shift from the south to the north and the temp was starting to fall. We started casting long the bar moving from the land side out towards the point. Craig is the guy who introduced me to the Navionics lake map app so we both were using our iPhones to keep the boat in position. This bar extends out to the middle of the bay. It consists of gravel with scattered clumps of cabbage. The top of the bar is covered with just a few inches of water. We slowly worked out to the point and then turned into the wind to work our way back. Craig launches a long cast over the length of the bar and makes a two-crank Shorty when

the water boils way out there as a huge red tail breaks the surface. He slowly worked the big girl back to the boat where we could net her – a beautiful 47-incher.



Not a mark on her. She obviously spends most of her time in deep water chasing panfish. Craig caught her on an 8-inch hot perch Hellhound, a walk the dog type wood bait. By the time we released her, the wind had picked up and it was time to call it quits so we could all get home in time for turkey later in the afternoon. We all agreed that if we had another couple of hours we could have very likely run into more hungry muskies!

What a memorable morning! We timed it right so that we were on the water before the big front came though. And it paid off; the muskies sensed the front coming and had the feedbag on! If you all recall, there were snow flurries a few hours later and 12 inches on the ground by the next morning.

Craig and I were pumped for days afterwards. So the following week the forecast was for one day in the 50s on Monday, December 3rd. Craig again sent me a note saying that he was thinking about going out. I quickly wrote back that I felt the flu coming and would probably miss work that day but I could possibly find the strength to cast for a few hours if he really wanted to get out. Craig owns a window business in Hopkins and is fortunate to be able to store his boat in one of their heated warehouses. So pulling his boat out for one more adventure wasn't a big deal to him!

We met at the same landing at 7am on Monday morning. The air temperature was low 50s °F but the water temps were 32 - 34 °F. We fished the same spots again – Hard

scrabble, Halstad's and the rest. Water temps in the channels was 32 °F with skim ice we had to break through. Normally skim ice creeps me out but with the warm air temp, it was Ok. The problem was that we didn't see a muskie in 8 hours of fishing. We fished shallow, we fished deep, we threw topwaters, Hellhounds and Pounder Dogs. We fish from Halstad's up to Browns Bay - Noth'n. So much for having the big girls all figured out! But regardless, we agreed that there wasn't a better way to usher out the 2012 muskie fishing season.

Money Matters

Make sure to bring your payment for your dues to the meeting on Thursday to avoid sanctions imposed by OF.

Deposits for the LOTW (July 20-27th)trip are also being collected.

RABC permits can be obtained any time to avoid a monthly reminder by Duper.

Kids Fishing Clinic

As you all know the 43rd Annual Minnesota Sportsmen's Show is coming up and once again we will be helping out at Ron Schara's Kids Fishing School. The Waterdogs are the main source for the clinic's volunteers and Kelly Jo said she'd like to have 12 people each day if we can manage. Check your calendars so we can verify numbers at the meeting. The dates and times are:

Saturday, Jan 12th: 11:00AM - 12:30 PM

Sunday, Jan, 13th: 12:00-1:30 PM

As usual, a full buffet will be served in the bowels of the Rivercentre.

Juan's parking tip:

There's a ground level parking lot on the opposite side of the Xcel center from the main parking ramp. (A on the map below.)

From the west take the 5th St. exit and it'll take you right there. Right across the street from the parking lot there's a loading dock at the back of the RiverCentre. There's a tent there that's basically a smoking room for the folks working the show. Go through the tent and you're in the arena right near the area where the fishing clinic takes place.



2013 Elections

It was a lively campaign leading up to the 2013 election at the December meeting. Of course, there was a decent amount of mud-slinging and empty promises. When all was said and done, though, Banana Boy overcame reports of some questionable activities in his youth and emerged victorious as our new Vice President. Elected to the board over which Meat will have the privilege of presiding were Farm Buoy, Duper and Janitor. In addition: The President will name at his discretion one additional member to serve as a voting member of the Board.

2013 Tournament Preview

The number of tournaments will remain at 8 with 6 tournaments counting toward each fisherman's final score. One new twist this year will be the Mille Lacs overnight, combining two tournaments into one weekend. Walleye would be the species one day and bass the next. Should lead to some interesting strategizing. It's going to take lots of gear, that's for sure.

See you at the Crik on New Year's Day!!

For those of you who choose the more traditional parking, just tell the ticket takers that you're volunteering for the Ron Schara Kid's Fishing School.

2013 Tournament Schedule

Date	Hours	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Mar 16	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Carmen & FD
April 6	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Griz & Fluffee
April 20	TBD	Trout	Backup for Trout 1 or 2	
May 18	TBD	Southern Fried Walleye	TBD	Little Angel, Bud & Banana
June 7-8	TBD	Mille Lacs Flip-Flop	Mille Lacs	Janitor, Duper, Chips
July 13	TBD	Shot in the Dark Bass	TBD	Kirk, Analist
September 14	TBD	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick and Helen
October 5	TBD	Smallmouth	Rum River	Perp and Nasty