

# The Dogumentary

22<sup>nd</sup> Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

[www.h20dogs.org](http://www.h20dogs.org)

February 2004

## February Meeting

The February meeting will again be at the Davanni's by Eden Prairie Center. Dinner is 6, and the meeting starts at 7. It's a good deal for all of \$6 each.

### The 2004 Waterdog Calendar

Feb 5	Monthly Meeting
March 4	Monthly Meeting
April 1	Monthly Meeting
July 24-31	RocknRoll Musky Tour

## President's Corner – Matt Mueller:



These last few weeks have definitely been tough. According to Belinda Jensen we haven't had a stretch of weather this cold for about 8 years. I believe her. In any of the past few years I would have had at least one or two winter season trout trips under my belt in January. My one and only chance so far this year came and went in the first week of January. I think we hit about 40 degrees around January 5th. Unfortunately for me, I didn't see it coming and had no time to prepare. The mercury stayed at a tolerable temperature for about 24 hours before dropping to the teens so I never made it out. I do love trout fishing. Ever since joining the Waterdogs, and buying a boat, I find very little time during spring and summer for it (the

season closes at the end of September) so January to April have become my prime time for trout. The past 6 years or so have been awesome for trout fishing, with weather so fine that I could be out several times each month over the course of the season. But alas, not this year so far. Perhaps I should quit my bellyaching about the weather and get back to chanting my mantra for a near-term warming trend.

While it's been bad weather for winter trout, I suppose there are some 'dogs who might have made it on the ice for a little angling. For those of you who have, please write-up an article on your experiences and send it to Bob. Pictures are not only interesting for the group but can also help validate your claim that there is more to ice fishing than hypothermia. I for one just can't seem get in to ice fishing for some reason. Having eliminated both ice fishing and lacking suitable trout conditions I've been relegating my days to catalogs and on-line tackle shopping. You know, it never is to early to start buying for the Lake of the Woods trip (129 days and counting). While not a total waste of time, tackle-buying doesn't last very long and pales in comparison to actually using the tackle. Back to my mantra.

I did make the first day of the Schara clinic last month and was delighted to see plenty of 'dogs in attendance. I trust the Sunday session was equally populated with supporting 'Dogs. The fishing calendar will probably be at it's lowest for the next month. Barring the aforementioned ice-fishing or trout trip, there usually isn't much happening in February. March for me will be the beginning of a new season. The Northwest Sportsmen Show comes to town the first week, Cabela's starts stocking their Owatonna store with fishing season supplies and equipment, and our first tournament of the year takes

place. Now if I can just make it through the next 29 days. In the meantime, see you all this Thursday at Davanni's.

At right, Waterdogs await the onslaught of kids at the Schara Clinic at the St. Paul Sportshow.



**Dues Are Due**

To Avoid embarrassment and possible teasing by other club members, it is advisable to get your \$75 dues and \$75 LOW deposit in as soon as possible, before you become a mug shot in the Dogumentary.

The tournament dates have been scheduled, and although there remains the possibility of minor changes over the next month or so, here's how it shakes out now. Get the dates on your calendar and plan ahead to attend.

<b>Waterdogs Tournament Schedule – 2004</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dog In Charge</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Trout</b>	<b>Root River</b>	<b>Fluffee</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Crappie</b>	<b>Koronos</b>	<b>Farm Boy</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Walleye</b>	<b>St. Croix River</b>	<b>Carmen</b>
<b>June 11 (Fri)</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Bass</b>	<b>Minnetonka</b>	<b>Shorty</b>
<b>August 21-22</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Multi (overnite)</b>	<b>Vermillion</b>	<b>Chips</b>
<b>Sep 11-12</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Multi (overnite)</b>	<b>Chippewa Flowage</b>	<b>Griz</b>
<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Bass</b>	<b>Clearwater</b>	<b>Nasty Boy</b>

**New for this year:**

Two extra tournament points will be rewarded to the Dog who catches the largest fish of the target specie during tournaments.

Only 6 of 7 tournaments will count for year-end placing, which ends up only penalizing the 2 or 3 Dogs who make all 7 tournaments during the year, and are usually the top finishers. All others get to throw out a tournament, which will no doubt be the one they don't attend. Sound good to you???