

The Dogumentary

24th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

February 2006

February 2006 Meeting

We will be back at the Hopkins VFW for our meetings in the new year, with the same venue as usual. Dinner at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:00. Our special guest speaker will be former dog and wild man, Phil 'Humpty Dumpty' Mattison, who will present a movie of his fishing exploits in Northern Canada last year. Apparently, he will be soliciting for more guys to attend his trip this year, so come prepared to be entertained! Phil is known for his fun attitude, and has started several trends in the club's history, including 'Phil's Diner' on Sabaskong Bay, home of several group shore lunches, and the infamous food-fight and talking fish from the mid '90's.

Waterdogs Calendar

Feb 2	Monthly Meeting	.
March 2	Monthly Meeting	
March 18	Trout Tournament	
March 25	alternate Trout date	.
April 6	Monthly Meeting	
April 29	Crappie Tournament	
May 4	Monthly Meeting	
June 3-4	Walleye Tournament	
June 16-17	Bass Tournament	.
July 22-29	Rock'N Roll Musky Tour	
August 19	Multispecies Tournament	.
Sep 9	Musky-Pike Tournament	
Oct 14	Smallmouth Tournament	

Next Month

Our March meeting may be at Cabela's or Gander Mountain for a talk on trout fishing. More at the meeting and in next month's Dogumentary.

President's Corner: Steve Haagenson



Club President Steve 'Farm Boy' Haagenson and Laun 'Juan Valdez' Sanderson spent a week during January in New Orleans with their church group helping with the ongoing clean-up efforts there. They saw and learned a lot and had a variety of experiences that they will be sharing with the club in coming issues of the Dogumentary.

Welcome New Members!

We have two new members this year. Kirk Duholm is a friend of OF's, and works at US Bank in St.Paul. Lowel Bromander is a friend of Griz's, and works at Hamline University. We look forward to getting to know these two guys better and promise to help them find some most appropriate handles!

New 2006 Waterdogs Calendars available

Brian 'The Perp' Karsjens has outdone himself with the recent edition of the Waterdog's calendar, an idea he came up with himself. This year's edition contains many great photos from last year's events, and has all the important dates marked in it. It's a lot of fun to look at. Brian will have copies available at the February meeting if you did not get one in January.

2006 Waterdogs Fantasy Fishing

by Mama's Boy

Last year I started a fantasy fishing league for those in the club that were interested. Once again I'll give it a try again this year. Below I outlined the rules that I used last year. They look a little confusing on paper, but it's really kind of simple once you get started. Because of the fantasy commissioners limited staff, I prefer to do most of the picks by e-mail, that way I can keep track of things better. We had 10 guys participate last year, so let's see if we can get a few more guys to join this year.

General rules:

\$10.00 entry fee, only one team allowed per Waterdog member. Entry fee to be paid by the start of our tournament schedule.

Owner picks 2 fishermen from our club roster in each of our tournaments and LOTW trip. Of the two fishermen one will be a **starter**, and one will be a **backup**.

Starter – the Starter fisherman you pick for each tournament will be awarded however many points the actual guy gets in the tournament. Once you choose a Waterdog as a starter, that Waterdog **cannot** be used again by you.

Backup - your back up players points are accumulated through each tournament, but are only going to be used as a tie-breaker at the end of the season. If your Starter for some reason doesn't participate in the tournament, your backup will then become your starter.

The owner in the fantasy league must have there starting and backup fisherman picked prior to when the actual tournament parings are set.

LOTW points will be 1 point for each muskie caught, and 10 points for each of the large fish pools won by that fisherman.

All dues collected for the fantasy league will be returned back as prize money. Payouts will be determined at a later date. The league Commissioner will be Mamas Boy and I will be responsible for rules and reporting results of the league.

Again this may look a little confusing, but is actual pretty straight forward and should be fun to play. If you haven't been involved in a fantasy league before give it a try you have a good time trying to strategize throughout the year.

Send me an e-mail if you want to sign up. I'll also bring a signup sheet to the February meeting.

Mamas Boy

Old Dogs Never Die

Thoughts from the Inside – by the Perp

I thought it would be fun (I guess I must really be bored) to go back to those early days of the Waterdogs and see what the club was like back then. Here are a couple of quotes from the early newsletters that may help answer that question.

Waterdogs Fishing Club Newsletter - December 1982

"The WDFC is off and running! We are enthusiastic and encouraged by the people that have joined us so far. We've got many interesting people in our club..."

Waterdogs Fishing Club Newsletter – January 1983

"We are really going now! ... We have a lot of different people with different backgrounds and opinions... If you think that the last meeting dragged on a little long, so did we. Next month's meeting will be over before 10 P.M."

Waterdogs Fishing Club Newsletter – February 1983

"Believe it or not, the Waterdogs finally went fishing. Last Saturday seven "dogs" hit the Mississippi River! ... The fish weren't very cooperative. If Rick (Old Fart?) hadn't caught the one 2 lb. walleye, things would have sounded much worse."

Sure glad they fixed those boring meetings that drag on until after 10 PM. What happened to the "interesting", "different" and "opinionated" people that were in the club in the beginning? The trivia question for you is how many, if any, of the original Dogs are still in the club today, and when did the newsletter become The

Dogumentary? (The first roster I could find was from March of 1983, and listed 16 members.)

Club Fishing Reports

Compiled and reported by Suzy, Carmen, Rocky, and Griz

Whitewater Streams for Trout

On Jan. 7, 2006: Six Dogs took off from Old Fart's house for the first fishing experience of the New Year. Fishdick, Janitor, Old Fart, new guy Kirk D, Bud and Carmen rode together as OF gave directions for the back way to the North Branch. The "No Maintenance - use at your own risk" road lived up to its warning as we glided down into the valley on a stretch of road that resembled a luge run.

When we finally arrived, we split up with the three Bobs heading downstream and the others going up. It was a gorgeous day, with the temperature around 40 and green grass and weeds down by the river. It was a surreal day to be out there in spring-like conditions on Jan. 7. After being greeted by a local who pointed out his "No Trespassing" signs, Janitor found a huge school of trout (literally, hundreds of fish) in a deep hole and all three of us threw at them for quite a while to no avail. Using Janitor's radios, Bud reported the first catch but we were soon out of range. FD landed the first fish for Team Bob on a spinner while OF and Kirk had success using jigs upstream. We then tried Trout Run Creek and Janitor landed a nice 13" Rainbow and a Brown. Final tally: 9 fish and everyone had at least one.



There's One!

Mon., Jan. 16: As it was raining, sleeting and snowing in the Twin Cities, Nasty and Suzy enjoyed a dry, overcast day, 30-degree day on the North Branch. Unfortunately, they may have arrived a little too late. By 10:30 a.m., there was a midge hatch and trout were rising everywhere, except for Panther Martin and Vibrax spinners. Suzy caught one 10 or 11 inch brown. The water was exceptionally clear on both the North Branch and the South Branch, where they fished later in the day.

Sun., Jan. 21: OF and OJ only came up with one fish, too. Working the South Branch, they too came across a pool of dozens of trout that showed little interest in feeding. It was though, a picture perfect day -- beautiful weather and a walk through the woods.

The Dogs who've made the trip to the Whitewater have talked extensively about their experiences. While we all agree that it's incredible to be open-water fishing in January, it seems odd that the fish aren't biting like we're used to. Is it the temperature? Water levels? Lack of snow? Water that's too clear? Should we be trying a different technique? Lots of questions and still a couple until the first tournament of the year.

Icing the Big Walleyes

I got out to Mille Lacs with Glenn Johnson (the friend of mine that joined us on the LOTW trip last year) two weekends ago. We rented a sleeper house from Rocky Reef Resort starting at 8:00 PM on Friday, 1/13/06 through 8:00 PM on Sunday, 1/15/06. There was 14" of good clear ice, so we were able to drive out to the fish house. Friday evening and Saturday there was hardly a breath of wind, it was sunny and the high temperatures were in the low 30's. Sunday the wind was blowing around 10 - 15 MPH, the high temperature was in the mid 20's and it was still sunny. We were set up in 26 feet of water on the outer edge of rocky reef. The roads and an area around the house were plowed down to clear ice, letting a lot of light down into the lake once the sun came up. Even though we were in 26 feet of water, you could look down to hole and see the bottom of the lake near mid-day. I think that because of this the fish were very finicky. We marked a lot of fish on the depth finders, but many would not hit and when they did you had to hold your lure perfectly still. A jiggling action seemed to

draw fish in for a look, but scare them off from biting. Minimal jigging for a few seconds and then letting your lure hang motionless within 4" - 6" of the bottom for the next 30 seconds or more seemed to produce the best results.

We managed to catch perch with some regularity throughout the trip, eventually keeping 15 - 20 in the 9" to 12" range for a meal or two. I had the best luck using an orange and yellow glowing jigging spoon tipped with a minnow head tied to 6lb test micro ice Fireline and using a light action Fabril rod and small Quantum reel. Glenn caught most of his perch on small teardrop jigs tipped with a waxie or on a crappie minnow on a #8 octopus hook using 4lb test Berkley micro ice line and a light action HT Polar rod and reel combo. I didn't manage to catch as many perch as Glenn, but the average size of the perch that I did land was bigger due to using a larger lure and targeting the larger perch only.

The walleyes also proved to be difficult. We only managed to catch three for the entire trip. Both nights we had four lines (two each) in all night (from midnight to 5:30 AM) in the form of rattle reels and tip-ups rigged with beepers to go off when a fish would hit. The remaining parts of the day we were usually using one tip-up each and jigging with the other line. The first night and following morning passed without icing a walleye. Finally, around 10:30 PM on Saturday night I managed to land the first walleye of the trip, a nice 23" fish, using the same jigging spoon described earlier. No more walleyes that night. Sunday morning we were back jigging when Glenn's tip-up went off behind him in the house at around 8:15 AM. A few moments later I helped him land a beautiful 26" walleye. We estimated the fish to weigh between 6.5 - 7 pounds. This fish hit a walleye sized shiner minnow on a #8 octopus hook and 6lb test mono placed about 8" off of the bottom. Both of these fish were in the slot and immediately released after a few quick photos. The last walleye of the trip was a 14" fish the Glenn caught around 10:00 AM, which was also released.

All in all it was a fun trip. The perch kept our interest up and two of the three walleyes that we did manage to land were nice fish. I'm hoping to get back up there for one more outing in February either fishing out of my portable or renting a house once again.



Griz with a 23



Glenn's 26

I also got out this past Saturday (1/21/06) on Rock Lake which is located about 15 miles North of Bloomer, Wisconsin. A friend and I fished from about 1:00 PM until 4:30 PM. There was 12" - 16" of good clear ice (depending on which part of the lake you are on) with a light covering of snow and we were able to drive out on the lake to our spot. The temperature was in the low 30's and it was sunny. At first the wind was light, but it picked up toward the end of the day. We set out four tip-ups rigged with both sucker and shiner minnows ranging from 12 - 18 feet of water. Unfortunately, we did not have a single flag all afternoon.

We also set up the portable house and jigged for panfish in 18 feet of water near a break line. The bite was really slow, but most of the bluegills that we did catch were running larger than average for that lake and were nice fish. We managed to catch a dozen fat bluegills for a meal and released about 20 - 25 other bluegills and perch using small teardrop jigs tipped with waxies. Even though it was a slow

day, we had fun and seemed to do better than any of the other fishermen that we talked to on the ice or at the landing.

Lake of the Woods, Jan. 11-15:

Bob Liebrock and company hit LOTW out of Baudette at Wheelers Point. All of the reports of poor fishing were proved correct. Many theories as to why; cloudy water, cloudy skies, high temps., etc. Rocky fished approx. 8-9 miles out in 32-34 ft. of water. For 3 days fishing the group caught 11 walleye/sauger, a 5-6 tulibee, and 1 eelpout. The experience was poor compared to previous years (usually you'd catch that same number of fishin' just one day!). Nonetheless, Rocky had a great time on his favorite lake. He passed through Walker on the way up and had lunch with his son, Matt, the "voice of Walker" (potential nickname: Punk Rock?), who passes on his best to all the Dogs.

Mississippi River, Jan. 22:

Thanks to last week's Outdoor News article by Steve Carney, Chainsaw was inspired to go fishing on a stretch of open water on the Mississippi River near Elk River. Chainsaw headed to the 101/169 bridge, which is about 10 minutes from his ranch in Elk River. Between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., he caught six northern pike and quick released three more. Chainsaw used shiner minnows, which was the bait that Steve Carney recommended in his article.

Update: 20th Anniversary Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour

The response to this year's trip has been overwhelming. We have 29 guys signed up to date and most have paid their deposit. And, we have a waiting list.

Here's the current list of Dogs planning to participate include: Dave Anderson, Rick Anderson, Ron Boudreaux, Bob Blakely, Bob Dickey, Chris Downey, Steve Dupont, James Ferstenou, Steve Haagenson, Karl Hamre, Scott Hennessy, Paul Johnson, Brian Karsjens, Tom Keller, Jerry Krekelberg, Jeff

Lantto, Matt Mueller, Bob Raymo, Ron Reigle, Laun Sanderson, Doug Squire, Scott Squire, John Schaffhausen, Rick Wagner, and Tim Yanta. Guests include: Jay Dupree, Bryan Squire, Glenn Sturchio, and Paul Schweppe. Waiting list: Glenn Johnson and David Karsjens.

In other news, the LOTW Committee is working really hard on planning the trip. Here's what the committee has been up to:

Chips will plan a group lunch, and may possibly bring back the "fish fry" if he can convince his fellow Dogs to take a break from hunting muskies to snagging a few walleyes.

Nasty is coordinating evening activities. Each night, the Big Fish boards will rotate from cabin to cabin. The cabin that is hosting the boards will be responsible for making snacks available to any Dogs who visit their cabin that evening.

Griz is making jerky again.

Duper is working on the t-shirts.

Fluffy is compiling the trip CD and already has identified about 20 hot hits. The CD theme this year is "hot spots."

The committee also agreed to recommend that all boats attempt to come back to Angle Outpost around 2 p.m. each day to better facilitate lunches and naps. However, captains retain the right to inform their Little Buddies if they're going to do an "all dayer" (in other words: pack a lunch, we're not coming back until evening).

Duper will soon be working on the trip booklet - if you have any requests for fishing partners or cabin mates, please send those to Duper at stephenjdupont@msn.com.

Waterdogs 2006 Tournament Series

Mark Your Calendars Now and Plan to Attend!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
March 18 (Sat)	Trout	Whitewater River (March 23 alt. date)	Mueller - Johnson
April 29 (Sat)	Crappie	Chisago Lakes area	Lantto
June 3-4 (Sat-Sun)	Walleye	Gull Lake	Mueller – Johnson
June 16-17 (Fr-S)	Bass	Carver County Lakes area	Blakely – Dupont
Aug 19 (Sat)	Multi	Lake Wissota, WI	Ferstenou
Sep 9 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Minnetonka	Blakely – Karsjens
Oct 14 (Sat)	Smallmouth	Rum River - Anoka	Karsjens - Dupont