

The Dogumentary

32nd Year

All the News That's Fish to Print

February 2014

2013 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

February 6th	Monthly Meeting at Tuttle's
March 6th	Monthly Meeting at Tuttle's
April 3rd	Monthly Meeting at Tuttle's
April 12th	Trout Tournament WI
April 26th	Trout 1 backup

February Speaker: Brian Klawiter

I've been fishing since I can remember, starting out in Hutchinson MN.

I've fished the Crow River in the summer months as soon as my folks would allow me to travel further than 2 blocks from our house on my bicycle.

Fly fished for sunfish and crappies for 25 years with my dad with a couple walleye trips to Winni tossed in each year.



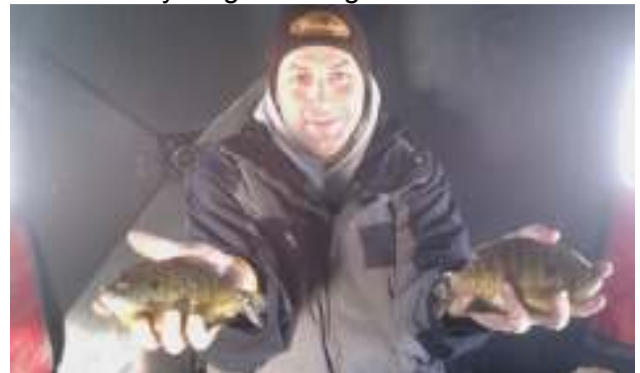
While fishing the backwaters of the Mississippi River with a friend, he had his rod doubled over and his hook straighten out which put me on a quest for big fish. Once I started fishing for flathead catfish in 2002/03 my dad wouldn't talk to me for 3 months.

I have one regret in life and that is that I didn't get my dad on the river to experience the mighty flathead catfish and the adventures of chasing them.

Featured in many Newspaper and Magazine Articles, Videos and TV Shows that include In-Fisherman, North American Fishing Club, St Paul Pioneer Press, Outer Boundary Magazine and Midwest Outdoors. Pro Staff at In-Depth Outdoors.

From the Desk of the President: El Banana

Here we are in February and getting closer to the start of spring, warmer weather and our 2014 tournament swing. It has been a brutal winter with some wickedly cold temperatures and several school cancellations, which has made for some challenges. They were saying this has been the most days cancelled for cold in 30+ years – and they have all happened in January. Crazy to think, but probably leaves some of us questioning why we live here, or don't travel to warmer climates like some of our southern Dogs. It definitely wears on you after awhile – but, for me, I love the outdoors with ice fishing, hunting, skiing and just playing with the kids. Not to mention, the snow and cold weather helps sell more Toro snowblowers. That's always a good thing.



As the days get longer and weather starts to warm (not soon enough), I'll be fighting to get

out a few more times on the ice. In fact, Griz and I were out for some ice fishing in early January, which surprisingly was his first time out for the season after back surgery. We tried a lake that Steve Carney mentioned at our January meeting, called Camp Lake, just north of Becker on Hwy 10. The weather was starting to drop, as it was just before the 'polar vortex' that cancelled school the following week. We positioned ourselves between two established houses, and a short time later got into a nice mix of good-eater bluegill on small jigs and waxies – but nothing like the size of what Griz and Analist got into up north. We even managed to catch a few pike, one of which I kept for cleaning. Since we didn't want the slimy snake flopping around the tent, we tossed him out to freeze. Surprisingly, he was gone when we were packing up to leave. Almost like he got legs, walked away and jumped down a nearby hole. Didn't know if it was an eagle or 'shady' angler that lifted him, but then again who would steal northern? Then, we remembered a dog roaming the ice earlier in the day. Likely from a nearby farm, taught by his owner to wander the ice and retrieve fish. Well done, and sure it was a nice snack! Shifting gears, we had a nice turnout of Dogs at the Schara Fishing Clinic – including a few helpers from Fishing for Life, the Scouts, and the ROTC. Old Fart



and I were working the minnow races, and it was hilarious to see some of these young gals from the ROTC squeamish to pick up the minnows. Quite the laugh, even for the little ones. While the crowds tended to lean out toward the end, this enabled some of the Dogs to practice their pitching and finesse techniques for upcoming trout. Thanks to all those, who

battled the crowds and parking for this great event. Means a lot to the kids, and I always find it rewarding in getting younger kids involved in the sport. The only disappointing part was that they ran out of steak and lobster, so we rummaged our way through beef sticks, jerky, Doritos and Ritz crackers. There's always next year.

We have another great speaker on slate for February's meeting at our usual spot, the tournament committee has locked in our waters for the 2014 schedule, and lots of other exciting things to come. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Branden (Banana Boy) Happel

Fishing Con-Carney:

The Waterdogs enjoyed another good discussion with Steve Carney at the January meeting where Steve gave up some of his secret lakes and tactics. Generally, he uses 6-8 pound mono, which allows for more of a shock-absorbing quality when a fish is on. He also has two standard baits that he and his clients use: An 1/8 oz. jig with a big 3/0 hook, with a 5" powerbait minnow in shad color, and a #5 Rapala Shad Rap in silver or perch. Most other methods and lures are Crap-Crap-Crap, except for the occasional minnow dragged upside-down and backwards with its insides spilling out, but that's a pretty advanced technique that you must work up to.



Goon Squad Goes Gunning

An unseasonably warm day of 33 degrees on Sunday January 19 brought the Goon Squad of Fluffee, Carmen, and FD out from hibernation to do a little early season trout in SE Minn. The previous hotspots of Cripple Creek and Dickey Lake were hit for 5-6 trout each up to a 17" brown. It was great getting out, but the same idea occurred to a

few other fishermen from WI, where the season is not open yet, and some other Richard-Cranium fisherman with Cornhusker plates who jumped ahead of us to some prime spots. We look forward to a little bit of payback when the WI season opens up on March 1.



St. Paul Sportsman Show:

By Doug (Mamas Boy) Squire
 On January 11th and 12th we had our first Waterdogs Special Service event of the year, by volunteering with the Kids fishing Clinic. I attended the Sunday show and got there a little early to help with setup. Kelly Jo (Ron's assistant) met us at the door and made me aware with a smirk on her face, that we were the B-team? As evidently the A-team attended on Saturday's event. Not sure that was the



case, as the Dogs on Sunday did a great job with the casting, knot tying, and baiting booths at the clinic. As usually the place was very busy for the first hour with non-stop action, we found it tuff getting the kids through fast enough. At the end of the day a lot of smiling faces as the kids seem to enjoy the challenge of snapping a mouse trap, or just hitting the back wall with a cast.



Raven gets in his licks

t the end of the show Ron and Kelly Jo thanked the Dogs for helping out again this year. We tried to figure out how long we had been doing the Kids Clinics and Ron thought he started it in 1996, and the Waterdogs volunteered at his first show.

Thanks to the Dogs that attended: (hopefully I didn't miss anybody).

Saturday: Felix, OF, Aegler, Blasy, Shatner, Farm Boy, Banana, Perp, Chips, O'Neil, Carmen, Meat.

Sunday: Analyst, Sticky, Forester, Nasty, Helen, Bud, Juan,

2013 Wisconsin Deer Opener:

By Glenn Johnson

It will never happen again!

My father-in-law and brother-in-law started me deer hunting a long time ago. We would hunt in Wisconsin on weekends with some success. We never bagged a big one but took a lot of does for the venison. My brother-in-law harvested a few bucks. No western or Canadian trips, just the Wisconsin woods.

Until this season during the Wisconsin 2013 Deer Opener.....

My tree stand faces south, with open woods in front of me. To my right is a shooting lane with an 85 to 90 foot elevation drop. All around me is woods of

moderate density. Behind me is a narrow strip of oaks then 35 acres of mature pine trees.

I heard some movement behind me, so I righted my rifle and placed the safety in the firing position. I looked to my right and was eye-to-eye with a large doe about 20 yards away. I stared her down for about two minutes and saw two small fawns walk up to the doe and stop. Without moving my head, I glanced further to my right and all I saw was antlers!!! I remember seeing a large main beam with 5 points on one side but I don't recall seeing the head or the body. With three or four more steps, the big guy is in the shooting lane heading away from me and I would miss my opportunity. I better do this!!



I raised and shouldered my rifle. Being careful I waited for the cross hairs to get on the beast and then fired one round. I watched the big guy get into and head down the shooting lane and take a 90 degree turn into a gully. It did not appear to be wounded. When deer are hit in the vitals they leap up and kick out their hind legs and I saw none of that. After 40 minutes, I got down from my deer stand and walked over to the hit zone. No blood! I started to think the worst!!

I shoot a 300 Remington Ultra Mag, 180 grain bullet with a ballistic tip. An 18 yard shot with a rail gun and no blood? Was this monster still roaming the woods? Did I put a hole in a tree?

When my hunting buddy met up with me, I talked him through the scenario. We followed the tracks and found blood spray within the shooting lane. I was very relieved because I knew that I hit him. Further along the tracks, we found large blood spray. We found the buck about 80 yards away. He was a 13 pointer with a 20 1/2" inside spread, split brow tines on both sides and a 14" long G3 tine. We roughly scored him in the range of 165.

It will never happen again!

Glenn (Puddin Man) Johnson

Ice Fishing in a Bucket:

Mark Sewald

Lake of the Woods, Baudette, Minnesota

Ice fishing sure has changed over most of our lifetimes. Thirty five years ago, many of us were using a hand chisel or auger to carve holes through thick ice. Through these hard won holes, we'd tempt fish with offerings dangling from wood handled fiber glass rods with line a line holder of two wooden pegs. Remember trudging across the ice in heavy "snow mobile" boots, white bucket with rods and bait in one hand, ice carver in the other?



Flash forward to January 11th, 2014 to a crew of anglers with as many 12 volt gel batteries among them as there are winter caps. Ice fishing has changed; Vexilar Graphs, graphite rods, four dollar jigs suspended by braided lines with fluorocarbon leaders. And this General Mills crew won't be walking the ice. We'll be riding in a snow cats to heated houses with pre-drilled holes today. If the kid with the ice chisel could have seen into the future, this entire affair would have likely seemed almost too easy. But I have to admit that I've probably changed as much as fishing has.

One of the few constants in all of this is the white five gallon bucket.

At Sportsman's Lodge, the white bucket isn't used as a tackle box/ice fishing stool however. It's used to hold the days catch from each ice house. These ice houses are placed over flats, ranging from mid twenty foot depths to mid thirty foot range depending on the season.



While there are reefs and other structure elements around that hold fish, these locations are primarily sunrise and sunset bites. The houses are located to provide a day long bite. What kind of fish bite in this kind of location? Most action is provided by saugers, the resorts bread and butter fish. The white bucket again comes into play again, as diameter serves as a gauge for a keeper sauger. There are other fish mixed in however. Walleyes, whitefish, eelpout, and giant northern pike can come along often enough to keep things interesting. The guides report that even a giant sturgeon will bite every now and then.

So what fishing strategy is there to apply when you're basically left marooned over a mud flat? Many opt for beer and bobbers, and must be admitted that there is merit to this approach; but likely not in terms of filling the bucket. The biggest mistake you can make is letting the saugers dictate your presentation. It seems like there are always fussy saugers around. Smaller lures, more finesse, and less action seems to get nibblers. But what we've learned is that when roving fish come in, they are often looking for a meal. The tiny fathead minnow dangling from a tiny jig will often not get it done for these guys.

So with one rod, an actively jigged lure pounding the bottom seems to draw in fish. Jigging Rapala type minnows, Chubby Darters, Stop Signs, Rattling spoons, and swimming jig heads in glow pinks, oranges, and yellows with maybe some gold highlights all seem to work. Add a minnow piece or a small enough minnow that you don't dampen the action of the lure.

Jig in lift and drop motions until you see a fish on the graph dial, then switch to nervous twitches. Slowly bring the fish of the bottom until it strikes. And while the saugers may only bump this kind of pre-sentation, the roving slot sized walleyes (19.5" to 28" fish) and smaller keeper walleye will clock it. These fish may come in off the bottom, and you may need to tease them slowly twitching the lure away from them by raising it a few inches of the bottom at a time. It is fun to watch the entire thing play out on the Vexilar dial. Also be sure to watch for suspended fish coming in at mid-depths. Reel your jig up to these walleyes. After a couple of twitches, the green mark often rapidly turns orange, red and our jig gets engulfed. Play the fish slowly, as these slot fish need to be released and won't survive if horsed to the surface. So if you're jigging with one rod, another rod remains for dead sticking or a slip bobber. Over the past few years, 3" to 4" shiners fish a foot or so off the bottom have been much better quality walleye producers than the small fathead minnows the camp provides. Look for a huge drop off in the bucket sauger production however.



If you go, pack light as the transportation back and forth from the ice house can be cramped. And since you're going from a heated lodge, to heated ice cat, to heated fish house being too warm is the typical challenge. You may want make room for a seat cushion, as there is a dearth of comfy chairs in the ice house. You're picking between a wooden bench or a metal folding chair. A warm lunch delivered to the fish

house by the guides is another pleasant feature.

While I wouldn't care to fish in this manner more than once a year, I wouldn't miss our company ice fishing trip. Good fun with good friends, and good basic accommodations and meals is a nice break in the winter and about as big of a no brainer as fishing gets.

And I must confess that back in 2012, my biggest walleye of 31" 10 lbs. 7 oz. came on one of these no brainer trips.

Sadly, I think I horsed the fish to the ice hole too quickly. We tried a release, and it would only bob back to surface even after 10 minutes of reviving with my arm stuck down the hole in the ice.

We needed a second bucket that day.



Fishing the Polar Vortex:

This was from fishing the original Polar Vortex Monday Jan 6th at Lake of the Woods at Long Point. As we drove up on Sunday, I said to my friend the good news is that the weather had stabilized it was only marking 22 below on my truck for the last two hours. Well 22 below was as far as the reading would go down in my truck. I think the outside temp was 37 below and 70 below windchill during the DAY. It was easy to cool down beer, the

trick was to keep them from freezing . Despite the



polar vortex, the fishing was hot, however. Lots of smaller fish, with probably 5 fish over 20 inches...two 25 inch fish. All the big fish came off the biggest fat head you could find and put it on the dead stick, hooked through the anus, six inches off the bottom. Also we caught probably 20 whitefish and tullibeas off small 1/8 jigs and minnow heads, I fished them like crappies, jiggling them up, they were suspended.

Tim (Friar Bertha) Yanta

Bio of the Month: Mark Sewald

Who brought you into the club and what's your relationship to that person?

Tom Keller. We are co-workers at General Mills and we fish in the same employee club events.

What's your profession?

My title is principal scientist. My team does the research behind product shelf life.

A little bit about your family

My wife Liz says I married her because she cleaned a limit of crappies we'd caught together almost 29 years ago while I had to stop in a lab at the U of M to check on an experiment. We have two kids. Our daughter Hannah is 24. Our son Dylan is 17.

What's your handle and the story behind it?

Don't think I have handle yet. When my daughter was in a pre-school aged Montessori school, she I announced my arrival to pick her up by shouting "Here comes the Beer Man!". This was much to the horror of the lady who ran the school, but the contrast of my daughter's joy and her the teacher's disgust actually made this all the more endearing to me. Think "Here

comes the beer man” is what I’d write on my grave stone.



Where did you grow up and what’s your history with fishing?

I grew up in Anoka, MN. My family has called me “the fisherman” since I was 3 years old, because I loved to go fishing with my Dad on the Rum River, Lake George, and Ham Lake. As a kid, I dreamed of the day that I could catch bass with some regularity and have a shot at a muskie. It wasn’t until about ten years ago, that I realized that boating 40 or 50 muskies a season really didn’t help me enjoy fishing that much more than my Dad and I did when we’d catching 6” and 7” bluegills in Lake George. While catching fish is still important, my goals of fishing have switched to enjoying my time on the water with friends, learning more about fish and new techniques, and giving something back to the sport.

What’s your favorite species to fish? Why? What’s your favorite technique?

As a kid, muskies were my dream fish. Beginning in the early 1990’s, I’d fish muskies (on Metro Lakes, and 2 or 3 times a year at LOW) almost 100% of the time during the open season through maybe 2009. Muskies are still the target fish maybe 30% to 50% of the time.

But float n fly fishing for spring crappies and fall smallmouth are what I’ve tended to dream about over the winter months the last few years. I love to enjoy the changing seasons through the behaviors of these fish.

What’s your most memorable fishing experience?

When I was maybe 12, I bought a Virgil Ward Crawdad colored beetle spin with my paper route money. My Dad told me “no fish in his right mind will hit a lure that looks like that.” The memory is the sight of a huge mouth of a Lake George bass opening and eating this lure at boat side. Looking back, this bass wasn’t likely more than 17” or 18”. But it was a monster for a kid more accustomed at 6” bluegills. This fish was the high point of my summer that year.

What do you like about being a Waterdog?

Learning and sharing experiences with other people with a serious angling identity and figuring out how I can best give back to the sport.

Mark (Here comes the Beer Man) Sewald

Tackle Tip of the Month

Don’t Neglect the Inside Edge

The venerable Tom (Helen) Keller

A pretty common tip, but in the spring I like to fish the inside weed edge adjacent to key sunfish spawning areas. I’ll toss a pumpkin / green colored wacky rigged “senko” style bait along or just into the weed edge to imitate an injured sunfish. At times the bass just stack up in the weeds, waiting for an easy meal. 9 time out of 10 you can catch 2 -3 fish in the 15” range. When it’s really on, the fish are competing. I have commonly caught 10-15 fish in a row doing this, of all different sizes, but they generally are in that 15 inch class. My record is ~ 25 fish on 25 casts. Last year it took only 5 minutes at my first stop to win a General Mills event with ~ 16 lbs of fish.

Photo of the Month

Mille Lacs Sunrise by the Analist



2014 Tournament Schedule

Date	Species	Location	Format
April 12	Trout	Western Wisconsin	TBD
April 26	Back -up date for Trout 1		
May 3	Crappie	Minnetonka	TBD
June 6-7	Walleye	Leech Lake	TBD
June 21	Largemouth	Tetonka	TBD
July 12	Smallmouth	Mille Lacs	TBD
August 16	MEGA Multi-Species	Pepin (Lake only)	TBD
September 13	Largemouth	Big Birch	TBD
October 4th	Multi-Species	Waconia	TBD