

# The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

March 2005

## Next Meeting – USCG Boat Safety Course

The final installment of the USGC Boat Safety Course will be held at the March meeting from 7-9pm at the usual Hopkins VFW. The regular club meeting will begin at 6:30, and if you would like to eat, it is recommended that you show up at 6:00.

The April meeting speaker will be a guy from Lakemaps who will explain how they make the maps and what kind of information they discover while doing so. We are set to have speakers at most of the meetings this year, so come prepared to look and learn!



Rex and Jeff from the US Coast Guard explain how not to drown while netting a fish

## The 2005 Waterdog Calendar Gentlemen, Mark You Calendars!

March 3	Monthly Meeting
March 19	Trout Tourney
April 2	Schara Clinic MplsAud
April 7	Monthly Meeting
April 30	Crappie Tourney
May 5	Monthly Meeting
May 28	Bertha Ordination
June 2	Monthly Meeting
June 4-5	Walleye Tourney
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-S Tourney
July 7	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30	RockNRoll Musky Tour
Aug 4	Monthly Meeting
Aug 20	Bass Tourney
Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 17	Musky/Pike Tourney
Oct 6	Monthly Meeting
Nov 3	Annual Banquet

Tournament details are on the last page.

## President's Corner: Doug Squire



I got a fishing line wet for the first time this year with an ice fishing trip to Mille Lacs. I went with a group of 14 guys I work with on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The weather looked promising with steady conditions and temps in the 40s, so I was looking forward to getting out on the ice. We had 3 houses rented from Twin Pines, which is just south of Garrison. I planned my sales calls for the day to be able to get a jump on the guys from town that were leaving after work. I met up with another one of our sales reps that came down from Hibbing

Days Until LOW Countdown:

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and got to the houses by 4:00, in hopes that we would get a limit before the other guys got there. The house we had were located on a mud flat about 4 miles out. I dropped a couple of lines and marked a number of fish about a foot off the bottom in 32 feet of water, so as usual, you hope you're in a group of walleyes. I kept jigging for about the first hour and finally got the bobber to go below the ice, only to haul in a 3 inch perch barely big enough to get its mouth around the fat head minnow. As it turned out this 3" perch was the only fish caught in the 20 hours our group was out on the ice. One guy did manage to pull in a 4 lb eelpout (I don't call these a fish). The problem was this thing managed to wrap itself up in all six lines that were in this house. Once they got the thing up the hole they lines were so messed up they couldn't even figure out who actually caught it. The trip wasn't much good for fishing but more of a social event with some great stories told and poker games played. In other words a typical trip to the "Dead Sea."

I'm looking forward to the Root River trout tournament this month. I started to pull some gear together for trout tourney but realized I have a bunch of my tackle in my boat in storage. So don't wait until the last minute or you could find out your missing things like I did. I did strip old line off a few reels and replaced it only to be nominated for a Weenie Award by my family. I tossed my 300 feet of line away in a plastic bag and properly placed it in the garbage. Somehow when Kim is vacuuming the family room she manages to suck a loose tag end on my old line into the vacuum and I get stuck pulling 300 feet of line out of the brushes, and this is my fault???? I really don't think so.

Mammas Boy

### **Special Outings Taking Shape for 2005**

The Special Outings Committee, chaired by VP Farm Boy, is looking at three club outings this year, to go along with our regular tournament schedule. The three locations are: Minnesota River for catfish or walleyes, Lake Wissota WI for muskies, and the Rum River for smallies. Further details on dates and other specifics will be announced soon.

### **Fantasy Fishing League**

We are just a few weeks away from the start of the 2005 Tournament Series, but you still have time to sign up for the Fantasy League if interested. The following guys have signed up: D. Squire, Dupont, Happel, Ferstenou, Haagenson, Sanderson, Boudreaux, R. Anderson, Blakely, S. Squire. As of now we will have \$100 of prize money to hand out at the end of the season. I'll pay out \$10 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$30 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$60 1<sup>st</sup> place. Participants should start to consider who they're going to have as a STARTER and BACKUP for the trout tournament. Watch the tournament sign up sheet at next weeks meeting to make sure the guys that you are considering picking are attending the tournament.

### **Fishing Report from the Root Beer River**

Five Waterdogs and one son went down to the Root River for a little scouting and pre-fishing before the upcoming tournament. It was Sunday, Feb 13, on one of those warmer winter weekends that we've been having this year. Although Saturday was perfect weather, it rained all day on the fishing day of Sunday, and all the way down to the Root for Felix, Duper, Old Fart and Fishdick. Fluffy and his son drove separately and fished the West end of the South Branch of the Root, while the other four dogs fished the Duschee Creek area. We started fishing about 11:30 in water that was clear and attractive, and in all, managed to pull in 5 brown trout of modest sizes, starting with a trout for Duper on his 5<sup>th</sup> cast. After fishing for about an hour, the run-off from the rain hit the river, and in a matter of minutes the clear shallow water became a torrent of chocolate milk, and the fishing stopped. The fish that were caught bit on both tiny jigs and twister tails, as well as size 0 and 00 spinners.

Fluffy and his son headed home, while the other group of 4 dogs did some scouting of other areas that will be open during the tournament. There is quite a bit of farm country in the area, where we noticed numerous cowpies being washed away by the rain. All the areas that we checked out were too churned up for fishing that day, so hope for more stable temps and no rain come tournament time.

We also toured the local fish hatchery in Preston, which supplies all the stocked trout for

the state. As we walked by the big ponds, the trout would follow us around the pond, just churning up the water, hoping for lunch. You could actually reach in and touch the fish as they swarmed all over each other. Now we know just where to go come tournament time, with a big 'ol can of corn. One tank had a few dozen big breeders in the 4-6 pound range that weren't quite as bold as all the 8-inchers, but they weren't spooky, either.

The day was a bust for fishing, but at least we know what kind of conditions to hope for. Otherwise, we can imagine that the tournament could have some great potential, much like the Whitewater of the two previous years.



Duper Bushwhacks a Brown on his 5<sup>th</sup> Cast

### **Fishing Report: James Family Outing**

I finally got away for a weekend trip to Upper Red Lake for the first time of the ice fishing season this past weekend (2/5 through 2/7) with my brother (Chris), my dad (Dennis) and my friend Glenn. We drove up on Saturday morning and started fishing out of the five man sleeper house that we had rented for the weekend at about 1:00 PM. The house was approximately five miles out on the lake and located over 14 feet of water. Reports coming into the weekend had been spotty, with the crappie bite being sporadic. The previous evening only eight crappies had been caught out of the house that we were renting and even fewer in the other nearby rental houses being operated by the same guide. He recommended drilling some holes and exploring outside of the house since the weather was cooperating that afternoon (it was around 35 degrees with very little wind).

Glenn drilled five holes in a semi-circle 10 to 15 yards away from the house and set a tip-up

in one with the hope of catching a pike or two. He had one flag at around 2:15 PM, but did not get the hooks into the fish. I also set up a rattle reel in the house for pike at different time throughout the weekend, but I did not have any action with it. The four of us fished from 1:00 PM until nearly 2:30 PM (using seven lines and three fish finders between us) without catching or even marking a fish on the locators. I knew from past experiences on the lake that if an afternoon bite was going to take place prior to the usual night bite it would be starting soon, so I decided it was time to go exploring and find some fish.

I grabbed my gear and headed outside, Glenn decided to join me. We started by checking the holes that Glenn had drilled earlier, but did not mark any fish. I grabbed my auger along with my other gear headed East with nothing more than a gut feeling to guide me. About 50 yards away from the house my "spidy senses" started tingling, so I stopped and drilled two holes about 30 feet apart. I scooped the ice out of the first hole and dropped immediately lit up like a Christmas tree, marking four fish at the same time. Glenn was standing by my side at the time, but immediately headed back to get his gear from the last location that he had tried.

By the time he returned from the short walk I had already caught four nice crappies and had lost a fifth one. He started fishing in the second hole that I had drilled. In less than ten minutes I had iced nine fish. Glenn had not had any luck in the other nearby hole. No one else around us seemed to be catching anything either. I stopped fishing at that point, wanting to stay one fish below my limit so that I could legally catch and release fish for the remainder of the weekend. Glenn continued fishing as I literally ran back to the rental house to get my brother and dad so that they could join us before the bite turned off.

The three of us returned to the "hot spot" but oddly enough Glenn had still not caught anything despite being a mere ten yards away. I drilled two more holes within five or six feet of the one that had produced crappies as fast as I could catch them only minutes earlier and had Glenn, Chris and my dad each fish out of one of them. The crappies continued to hit aggressively, now in all three holes. Color did not seem to matter as the fish came up from



the bottom and hit our jig and minnow combinations about five or six feet off of the bottom. I caught my first fish at 3:30 PM, but by 4:15 PM the bite had shut down. However, in that 45 minute span of time the four of us (using one line each) managed to land 36 crappies ranging from 13" to 15" in length. It was incredible to catch fish this fast, but I found it very strange that the anglers around us and the other hole that I had drilled nearby produced nothing or very little during the same stretch of time. It was a great start to our trip. That evening we caught and released ten more crappies inside the house.

We slept in the next morning, due to our success the previous afternoon, and started the day at a leisurely pace by making breakfast. The weather had turned overnight and it was now 15 degrees below zero with a 10 to 15 mile per hour wind. We fished on and off throughout the late morning and early afternoon inside the house, catching only a few walleyes and perch along the way. Around 2:30 PM Glenn and I bundled up and went out to brave the cold in search of another afternoon bite.

We started in the same spot that had been so successful for us the previous day, but I did not mark any fish there. I decided to keep moving East, drilling holes about 10 yards apart as I went. I'd drop a line down and watch my flasher. If I didn't mark any fish within a minute or two I'd move on. Glenn and I took turns scooping out and drilling holes as we went. On about the twelfth hole, now between 100 and 120 yards away from the house, the flasher lit up again and we were definitely on the fish, it was now 3:00 PM.

In a matter of minutes I had caught five crappies and attracted the attention of another group of anglers nearby who had only caught two walleyes the previous day and no crappies on either day. One guy came over and asked what I was using, so I told him. I also stated that with this aggressive bite, it wouldn't matter and that they were welcome to come over and drill as many holes as they needed right next to me. It didn't take long and they were all set up

and fishing within feet of me. Once again the bite ended at 4:15 PM. This time with seven people fishing we landed over 50 crappies in 45 minutes, despite having frozen equipment. Several of the anglers that joined me were landing fish hand over hand since their reels and guides had frozen up. I was also the only one using a flasher. Once the bite was over we headed back to the rental house to warm up, clean fish from the previous day and grill some steaks for dinner. Everyone that had joined us thanked us for letting them in on the action.

Glenn and I fished for about an hour with one line each between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM inside the house that night, landing five more crappies, losing a few more and marking a lot of fish on the flashers as all four of us listened to the Superbowl on the radio. We left the lake the following morning, all in full agreement that it had been a great trip and very relaxing. For me the rewarding part was not catching all of the fish, but rather being able to branch out away from the rental house and find fish on my own. Even more rewarding was being able to capitalize on my good fortune by sharing it with family, friends and other anglers who I had not previously met. I had experienced this type of fast and furious action on Upper Red Lake several times in the past, but they had not. It was great to see their reactions and watch them as they landed fish after fish with smiles on their faces. It was definitely a trip to remember.



James, brother and friend with Red Lake Crappies

# Waterdogs 2005 Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars and Let's Go!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dogs in Charge</b>
March 19 (Sat)	Trout	Root River (Preston-Forestville area)	Mueller – Keller
April 30 (Sat)	Crappie	Prior Lake	Dupont – Karsjens
June 4-5 (Sat-Sun)	Walleye	St Louis River – Duluth	Hennessey – Miller
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-species	Minnetonka	Blakely – Ferstenou
Aug 20 (Sat)	Bass	Rush Lake by Rush City	Lantto – Johnson
Sep 17 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Mille Lacs	Leibrock - Haagenson