

The Dogumentary

27th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2009

April Meeting at Capra's!

The April 2nd meeting will be held at Capra's Sporting Goods in Blaine at 8565 Highway 65 NE (Central Ave). Pizza dinner starts at 6pm, with the Bass Show shortly after.

2009 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

April 2	Monthly Meeting
April 25	Crappie Tournament
May 7	Monthly Meeting
<u>May 30-31</u>	<u>Walleye Tournament</u>
June 4	Monthly Meeting
June 19	Bass Tournament
July 2	Monthly Meeting
<u>July 18-25</u>	<u>2009 RockNRoll Musky Tour</u>
August 6	Monthly Meeting
August 22	Bass Tournament II
Sep 3	Monthly Meeting
<u>Sep 19</u>	<u>Multispecies Tournament</u>
Oct 1	Monthly Meeting
Nov 5	Banquet

See the last page for the 2009 Tournament Details

Only 4 Months until the LOTW Trip
Bring Your Shopping List to Capra's

From the Desk of the President, Helen Tom Keller



We're mixing it up this month and moving the meeting to Capra's Sporting Goods in Blaine. The Seminar Committee has set-up some time with Dean Capra to talk Tournament fishing. Please try to be there by 6 pm, we'll have a quick business meeting, enjoy some pizza, barley pop, and soda while Dean gives us the inside scoop. We may even have a few special prizes.

Dean is a very successful angler and knows the lakes we're fishing so bring your questions and note books.

One down and five to go... What a great trout tournament, the weather committee sure did their job and I hope it's an omen for the rest of the year. Odds are in our favor and we're due

for some better weather. The browns were a bit hard to find for many of us and there was some combat fishing going on, but it sure was a nice day to spend outside.

Congratulations to Chips and Griz on a convincing win. I'm looking forward to learning about the winning strategy at our next meeting. Also, a big congrats to Dr. Meat on the 15.5 Brookie, that's a real trophy in this neck of the woods.

The warm weather and recent rain has ended the ice fishing season almost overnight. The open water season seems like it's just around the corner. It's even looking like an earlier ice out than expected, but I never count old man winter out. He seems to come back with a bang about this time of year. It's something I call the Minnesota "sucker punch". I hope he doesn't blind-side us because I am looking forward to summer. I drive by Medicine Lake every day and it's changing by the day. The small bays are beginning to open up and I expect the Crappies are staging. My daily drive past the lake has me thinking about the Lake Washington Crappie tournament. It should be a great outing and I hope we get a big turnout.

Also, thanks to all the Dogs that have signed up to help out at the Governor's Fishing Opener. We'll get it all organized in a few weeks; it should be an interesting and fun event.

Last but not least, thanks to Perp for representing the club at the "Fishing for Life" fish fair held at New Hope Church last month. Watch out because he strategically stationed himself next to the Musky Inc. guys. Knowing Perp, he gleaned some great information and is already gearing up for the season. I wouldn't be surprised if he sold a few Musky Mats in the mean time.

That's all for now
Helen

March Madness: Waterdogs 24, Trout 118

The first tournament of the year kicked off with the Wisconsin Trout Tournament, once again. In a most unusual sense of timing for the club, the weather was almost too good for trout fishing. The water was low and clear, and the temperatures were outright balmy and into the 50's by the afternoon. With the sunny sky, the fish turned extra-spooky, and very difficult to catch, especially after about 10 am. By the afternoon, a lure moving through a pod of fish would cause them to scatter, even if it was a juicy Gulp worm. Most teams managed to catch some decent fish early, and with the extra counting-points for brook trout, that was the specie that got the most attention at the start. As a result, there were 75 brookies that got caught for tournament points, compared to just 43 brown trout. That's about the opposite of years past. Now, however, many good brook trout spots are known to club members, which caused some teams to pile up on top of each other vying for the good pools.



Dogs Cluster at the Hot Spot

Some nice fish were caught in the trout tournament, including a 15.5" brookie by Dr. Meat, John Schaffhausen. It was the biggest point-fish of the tournament, and was caught

right after his partner, OF caught a 14.5"-er. Both of those brookies were caught in the South Fork of the Kinni, right in the River Falls city limit. That section of the river is also known as 'Shatner's Hole' from success in previous years. Apparently Kirk and his partner Fluffee fished the area earlier in the day, but missed the bigger brookies.



The Meaty 15.5" Brookie

Also noteworthy was the 19.5" brown trout caught by Banana Boy Branden Happel, which is the biggest brown trout caught in a Waterdog tournament. The fish came from the Rush River down south a-ways near where Lost Creek flows in.



Banana and His PB 19.5" Brown

Only one team limited out with 10 each of qualifying-length brook and brown trout, and they were also decent-sized fish, to put the team of Jeff Lantto and James Ferstenou into the first-place spot by a total number of points that was 25% higher than the second-place team. They caught their mixed bag mainly

from two locations that they describe in the story below.

In second place was the team of Kirk Duholm and Matt Mueller with 17 fish, with toppers of a 12.5" brookie and a 15" brown. In third were Rick Anderson and John Schaffhausen with 14 fish led by Meat's 15.5" brookie. In fourth were Paul Johnson and Bob Blakely with 19 fish. In fifth were Scott Squire and Mark Bystrom with 12 fish, and in sixth were Brian Karsjens and Bob Dickey with 10 brookies.

It was a fun day for all, with no broken bones, but plenty of lost lures, and a modest Juan dunking at a cost of one camera and one cell phone.

The Griz & Chips Show or Lookout - Griz is Back!

By Chips

This is our story about winning the Trout Team Tournament on 3-21-09 which happened to be Chips B-Day so we had a little B-Day luck working for us on this absolutely beautiful day for March. The Club has held this tournament for 3 years now in the Wisconsin Trout river system. Neither Griz & Chips were able to compete in the first tournament in 2007 and we both fished last year, but were one of the few teams to not catch any trout in the snow melted swollen rivers of 2008's tournament. So you can see that our history with this tournament has had very little success for either of us, but when you have Griz as your partner you can always have hope and maybe some of that luck as well!

Neither of us were able to prefish this year prior to the Tournament day, in fact we did not even know where we were going to start until we discussed our strategy as we drove into Wisconsin on Saturday morning. We started to fish the Rush just south of the bridge over the Rush off of Highway 63, some guys call it "Wonderland". Chips had only fished north of the bridge and Griz had only fished south of it before, so we parked the truck in the parking spot & were surprised that there were no other Dogs there. In fact we never saw any Dogs all day. Chips caught his first fish which was a Brook that measured 8" a counter at 9:50 AM and caught up to Griz who had a caught a few

more counters as well. Griz caught most of the fish for the team and his story is below with a lot more detail of his techniques that were successful. Like I said in our story's title--lookout Griz is back in the run for the year long tournament series!

Griz's Tale:

Relatively early in the day we had already landed 6-7 trout. We were working our way upstream and I stopped at one pool and Jeff was going to move on to the next one. I lost a trout on my first cast. On the next cast five trout followed my pumpkinseed colored jig out of the pool. I caught a few more Brook trout there before switching lures. I then tried two different spinners, a Rapala and a black twister tail in the same pool without even a single bite or follow. I returned to using the pumpkinseed colored power grub and bang, another Brook on the first cast. A few casts later and I had added two browns to our total. It was at that point that I said to myself "I'm no dummy, keep using this lure all day and forget the rest". So that's all that I threw for the rest of the day. We fished our starting spot until nearly 1:00 PM and we were only one brown trout short of our limit when we left there.

The 16" brown that I caught was a fish that I spooked out of a nice spot earlier in the day and came back to it. I was using 6 lb. suffix fluorocarbon line. I don't know if it made a difference or not, but it could have. Most of the trout that I caught prior to 1:00 PM were at the tail end of "riffles" near the start of the "runs". After that they were in deeper pools. I swam the jig with a steady retrieve all morning but switched to a slower, deeper jigging presentation in the afternoon when fishing the deeper pools. I caught a lot more fish casting parallel to the banks or slightly angled upstream than I did when casting downstream or perpendicular to the shore. Several of the trout that I caught were fish that I could see and cast toward, but many of them took multiple casts before they bit. Browns and Brooks were sharing the same holes in several locations. Many times I'd catch a Brooke and then a brown out of the same pool. There were

many small minnows darting around in the river that were a tan/brown color. I think that the pumpkinseed colored power grub must have matched them most closely and I'm assuming that the trout were feeding on the minnows as well.

After eating our lunch during our drive to another spot further down stream that Griz was familiar with, I tried using the black jig with a twister tail that Griz offered me and he attributed most of his success to earlier in the day. I did not have any success with the jig so I returned to my #1 Panther Martin small spinners which I had caught my trout on earlier. Griz added a couple of larger brown trout to our scorecard and we headed to the "Park & Ride" meeting place to be there with time to spare with a quiet confidence that we had done well enough to place, but uncertain how everyone else had done for the tournament. I assisted Griz as we gathered each team's scorecards and he entered the numbers on his laptop to configure the results of the day's event. We were pleasantly surprised that we were the only team to fill out a complete score card of 10 fish for each species and that thanks to Griz's fishing expertise and Chip's B-Day luck we were the tournament winners by quite a bit!

That is the Griz & Chips Show, but remember to look out Griz is back!

The end!

More Winner's Q&A:

What was your pre-game strategy? We talked on the phone about fishing the Rush for browns and possibly moving to the Kinni (or someplace else) for Brookes if needed.

Did you prefish, and what did you find out? No, we winged it. We made the call on where to start fishing while driving.

Where did you fish, and why? A popular spot on the Rush just south of the first big turn of Highway 63. We were surprised to find no other 'Dogs there and only one other vehicle.

What areas did you fish on what rivers?

Rush only. The spot described above and near 570th.

What baits caught the most fish?

I caught nearly 20 trout for the day and all but three were on a 16th oz. black jig head with a 2” pumpkinseed power grub. The other three were on spinners.

Did anything unusual or funny happen?

It was Jeff’s birthday on Saturday, so I think that we had a little bit of “Birthday Luck” on our side. The other unusual thing for me was that I only caught one trout all day that was too small to count. I had a lot of other hits, but seemed to only be catching the nicer fish.

2009 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars Now!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ Saturday, March 21	Trout	WI Rivers	Janitor, Nasty, Shatner
Saturday, April 25	Crappie	Washington Lake	Mama’s Boy, Griz
Sat-Sun, May 30-31	Walleyes	Big Stone Lake	Duper, Analist, Perp
Friday, June 19	Bass	Clearwater Lake	Helen, Buick
Saturday, August 22	Bass	Chisago Lakes	Chips, Farm B, Fluffy
Saturday, Sep 19	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick, Shorty, Kirk