

The Dogumentary

31st Year

The Of-fish-ial Mouthpiece of the Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2013

2013 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Apr 4	Monthly Meeting
April 6	Wisconsin Trout 2
April 20	Trout Backup Date
May 2	Monthly Meeting
May 18	Southern Fried Walleye
June 7-8	Mille Lacs Flip Flop
July 13	Shot in the Dark Bass

April Seminar

Our speaker on Thursday will be Mark Sewald, a friend of Helen's from General Mills and an avid Muskie fisherman. He's got a lot of experience fishing Muskies and should be a great speaker.

From the Desk of the President,

Well the first tournament went off without a hitch. My fingers have finally thawed enough to write my latest contribution to the Dogumentary! When we first started doing these trout tournaments, I would be the first to admit that I wasn't so keen on the idea. Waking in the middle of the night, travel several hours south while half asleep, in order to walk through the snow for great distances, freeze off my fingers, all to reach a small stream that never seemed to hold any catchable fish. Over the years, however, this concept now has far greater appeal to me. It has really grown on me and I look forward to the events each year (with the exception of freezing off the fingers). I enjoy getting out there, exploring new places, viewing the scenery, and actually the exercise. This year was no different. My partner, Banana Boy and I decided to concentrate on the Rush at a few spots he knew. My goal for this tournament was to hopefully fill our card. Based on my past outings, I was convinced we needed a full card to even have a chance to get into the top

eight let alone place. We had good luck this year with several nice fish and thanks to my partner we filled our card. I had to admit I was quite surprised with the results and finding out that we placed second and were very close to first. We had a great turnout and of course a great lunch (can't go wrong when your order involves bacon and fine Wisconsin beer). I am looking forward to the next tournament and am very happy to see the snow melting away. Maybe my fingers will survive.



I would like to request the Blind Squirrels to get working on an invention: something that will keep the fingers warm, allow you to tie the smallest of knots with ease, stay perfectly dry

when landing fish, and don't get snagged by hooks. You have approximately one week. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Dr. Meat/John Schaffhausen

Troutsicles

By FD

The first tournament of the year went down in classic Waterdog style with the temperatures below freezing for the duration of the event. That meant freezing guides and cold fingers while trying to catch your limit of ten brown



trout per team. There were times when the guides in the rods would freeze up so bad that it was hard to reel in, and then the ice would shred your braided line if you reeled too hard. The temperature at the start of the event was around 18 degrees, and by 2pm it had warmed up to about 26. Adding to the excitement was the 1'-2' of snow on the ground, which made trudging any distance a sweaty affair. Yes, we are living the dream... Water levels were a bit



low and still OK in the streams, but the fish were sure playing hard-to-get, with most teams falling short of the 10-fish limit. In fact, it may have been one of the lowest-fish numbers of any trout tournament that we have had.

Several teams saw each other on the Rum and Trimbelle Rivers, but overall, teams spread out widely throughout the trout areas of western Wisconsin. The winning team was Shatner and Dr. Uno with a 10-fish limit caught mostly on the Rum River. They caught 11 fish, and were able to cull one, and were the only team to catch more than 10 board-member browns. Three other teams limited at 10 fish, and that left 6 other teams that were unable to fill out their cards. All together, there were 65 browns of 8" or larger caught by the 20 Dogs fishing the tournament, which is just over a 3 fish average per guy. A pretty low number by our usual standards.

The big fish was caught by Bud Miller, an 18.5" brown, on a 3" floating black and silver Rapala on the Rush River by the Sportsman Club.



FYI, an 18.5" brown trout weighs 3.59 pounds, according to the chart, which is as much as 7 ten inchers, which clock in at 0.52 lbs each.

The Winner's Circle

By Dr. Uno

I was lucky enough to draw Shatner for the brown trout tourney. We went pre-fishing on the Eau Galle on opener and caught a few, but

nothing great. I wasn't able to get out again, but Shatner went out two days before the tourney and hammered them on the lower Rush. We were pretty optimistic, so when after 3 hours all we had were a couple 12 inchers, we were getting a bit frustrated. We finally got three nice ones (14, 15.5,



16) from one small area. It seemed that the active ones were more in the current, we didn't really get anything from the slower pools. After that spot it shut off again. We decided to go to the Eau Galle in town in Elmwood where we had caught a couple on opener. We were lucky to get five more in about an hour, all in deeper runs along the rock bank. We fished pretty slowly with big baits all day, Shatner



with a #11 gold floating rap, and me with a large gold spinner (a superbow, google egg spinners) and a #9 xrap. I do agree with Shatner that when fishing for brown trout, you really can't go too big. It also makes long casts

easier, which was important since they were pretty spooky in the low clear water. So that's our story. It wasn't a fast day of fishing, but we were able to find just enough hungry fish to squeak out the win. And yes, Shatner caught the first, the biggest, and the most

Analist's Tip of the Month

This month's tip is compliments of Old Fart: When tying a bait to your line (especially a stiff line like mono) run the tag end back thru the bait before cutting it off. The tag end then points more towards the bait rather than out to the side and does not catch the weeds. Bill Dickey, rest his soul, showed me this simple little tactic years ago and I have never forgotten it.

Bio of the Month **Fishin' with Grampa**

By OF

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

Dave Schaffer and Scott Beaty brought me into the club in 1983. They were college friends.

What's your profession? I am a personal risk manager. I help people manage their personal risks through insurance and other means.

A little bit about your family. I have been married to Lise since 8-6-1977. We have two grown children, Colin, 9-8-83 and Cary, 9-30-85. Colin graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula. He is married to Stephanie and living in Spokane, WA. He



writes articles and sells ads for a monthly advertising magazine in the Spokane and Coeur d' Alene area. Stephanie is an attorney. Cary graduated from ASU in Tempe and earned his Masters' Degree in Electrical

Engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle. He currently lives in Seattle and is an electrical engineer for T Mobile in Seattle. I don't understand what he does. I just know he keeps my computers running smoothly. His girlfriend Lauren has a commercial interior design degree. She works for the company that manages Bill Gates home. Her office is in Bill's house. How is that for a first job.

What's your handle and the story behind it? Old Fart or OF. The fart part is because I fart a lot (all that fruit you know). I'm not sure about the old part. I was not old when I earned the handle but I am getting closer.

Where did you grow up and what's your history with fishing? I grew up in Austin, MN. My early fishing was trout fishing in SE Minnesota. I also fished Fountain Lake in Albert Lea with my grandpa. Lots of Bullheads. Grandma would fry em up and they were pretty good.

What's your favorite species to fish? Why? What's your favorite technique? Largemouth bass is my favorite. There are lots of places nearby to fish then. I like top water fishing in the slop. You see it, you hear it and you feel it all at once, that is exciting for me. Hard to beat Waconia in early June in the pencil reeds.

What's your most memorable fishing experience? Fishing bullheads with grampa is right up there. That is 50 years ago and I still remember it very well. I also had a day years ago on Waconia in Waconia Bay. It was before milfoil overtook and you could throw the turd right up to the cat tails. I caught 23 LM that day, all on the Turd and all 15 to 20 inch. Kirk and I also had a nice day on the Rum with over 20 SM, all in the 15 to 20" range. We discovered the famous hump that day.



What do you like about being a Waterdog?

I like what it has taught me about fishing over the years. There is and always has been a ton of knowledge in the club. I like that the club is well organized and works very well. I look forward to socializing with all you guys. Whether it is a meeting, tournament, outing, or poker game it is always enjoyable. I am grateful that many of the club members past and present are clients of mine. We have a great thing here, let's keep it going.

Venturing North in search of Giant Walleyes

By the Analyst

For the past 8 years or so my son and I have been making a winter sojourn to the Lake of the Woods in search of walleyes. We have always had good success, but last year I began hearing about how if you want really BIG Walleyes you need to go to Lake Winnipeg. After hearing this from several sources I began to research it for myself. Turns out this giant lake (some 258 miles long and covering 9,465 square miles) is truly a giant walleye factory. While the Native Americans net the lake heavily, there is plenty of fish to go around.



Early this fall I placed a call into the fishing guides I used previously for Catfish (which yawl should really try!!). They said early season is the best so I booked a trip during the kids Christmas break. While all my previous trips have been just my son and I, this time my new hunting companion and his twin sons are

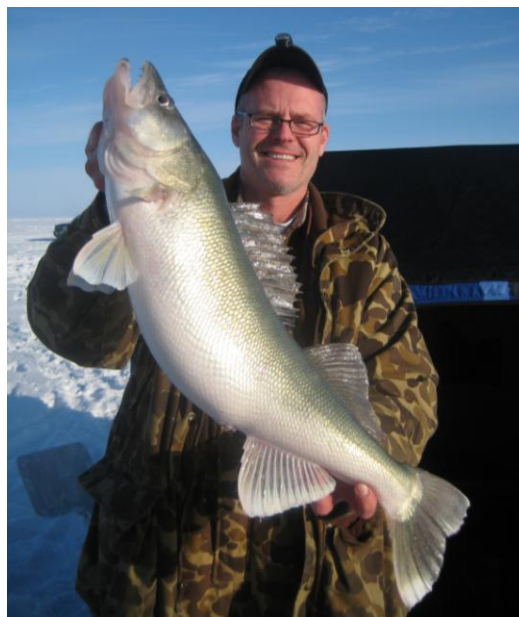
coming along. Travel time to the lake is not much greater than going to the Angle. We fished a total of three days and caught from 30-60 fish per day. Most of the fish ran from 20-25 inches, and all fat as can be. While a 25 inch fish from normal lakes would weigh around 5 pounds, these ones tip the scales at nearly 8 pounds! Both of the friend's boys caught their new personal bests; one at 28" and one at 26". While my son (Justin) caught a lot of fish, he failed to best his 28-incher from the Angle. I was fortunate enough to get the biggest of the trip.

While my friend and I fished the first two days with our boys, the final day we decided to venture out on our own. Fishing from the guide's tents was slow, so we pulled up my friends portable in search of virgin ground—which was identifiable via a lack of car tracks and drill holes from previous fisherman. Immediately after setting up we had fish below us. My friend was using the "hot Winni bait" made by Live Target. It resembles a Rattle Trap and makes a loud ruckus beneath the ice. The lure proved to be very effective in bringing in fish as the water quality is very poor. In the first 15 minutes on the new spot he brought in a few looks, but no takers. I took my eyes off the locator for a brief moment and when I looked back I saw the big red mark beneath my bait. I rose up my jig and minnow, she followed and just crushed my bait. Being in pretty shallow water (less than 8' beneath the ice), the fight was pretty short. But when she came up through the hole—man was she a toad! The tape said 29", one inch short of my PB, but the digital scale showed 10.47 lbs—a new PB. A few pictures and she was set free to be caught another day.

The fish in Winni definitely showed a preference for salted spot tail shiners harvested from the lake. While I used both live and dead bait throughout the trip, I would

guess 80% were on the dead bait. I also developed a new way to rig for walleyes. I would hook the salted minnow through the back of the head and leave the stinger hook hang free. I would then put a minnow head on the stinger hook. I did not come up with this concept until the evening of the final day, but man did it increase the amount of bites.

Previously a lot of fish would come in and take a look, but not eat. I would guess 30% of the fish bit. With my new rig I would guess 80%-90% were now eating; most of the time just the minnow head. Give the Anal-Rig a try sometime and let me know what you think!



2013 Tournament Schedule

Date	Hours	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Mar 16	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Carmen & FD
April 6	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Griz & Fluffee
April 20	TBD	Trout	Backup for Trout 1 or 2	
May 18	TBD	Southern Fried Walleye	TBD	Little Angel, Bud & Banana
June 7-8	TBD	Mille Lacs Flip-Flop	Mille Lacs	Janitor, Duper, Chips
July 13	TBD	Shot in the Dark Bass	TBD	Kirk, Analist
September 14	TBD	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick and Helen
October 5	TBD	Smallmouth	Rum River	Perp and Nasty