

# The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

May 2005

## Next Meeting – National Camera

The next club meeting is Thursday May 5 at the Hopkins VFW at 7:00pm, and 6:pm for dinner. Our featured speaker will be a guy from National Camera who will explain the different types of cameras and how to take better shots of your fish. The regular club meeting will follow the presentation, and last until about 9:00. Upcoming speakers include:

June: A river guide tells how it's done.

July: Thorne Brothers, at their store for a musky talk and sale. See details in Duper's column.

## President's Corner: Doug Squire



It didn't seem like to long ago I was reporting that the ice had covered our lakes, now its open water time again! The month of April was a busy month so far. We started out with the Schara clinic and Duck, Wetlands / Clean Water rally at the Capital on April 2. I got to the Sport Show at 10:00 as the doors opened and made a few stops at some of the booths before heading into the Schara clinic. We had a large number on Water Dog's volunteers that helped out the clinic. Ron thanked me again for our help at the event; they were a little short of volunteers this year so he really appreciated it!

I then took off to attend the Duck, Wetlands and Clean Water Rally which officially started at 1:00. The weather was great and the turn out of people in attendance was estimated at 3-5 thousand people. I know a few of you guys made it to the event which from the reports I heard the rally was a success.

The reschedule trout tournament seemed to be successful, even thou we had to deal with a large number on anglers as it was the trout

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

<u>April 30</u>	<u>Crappie Tourney</u>
<u>May 5</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>May 28</u>	<u>Bertha Ordination</u>
<u>June 2</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>June 4-5</u>	<u>Walleye Tourney</u>
<u>June 24 (Fri)</u>	<u>Multi-S Tourney</u>
<u>July 7</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>July 23-30</u>	<u>RockNRoll Musky Tour</u>
<u>Aug 4</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>Aug 20</u>	<u>Bass Tourney</u>
<u>Sep 1</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>Sep 17</u>	<u>Musky/Pike Tourney</u>
<u>Oct 6</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Wissota Outing</u>
<u>Nov 3</u>	<u>Banquet – Biaggi's</u>

Tournament details are on the last page.

Days Until LOTW Countdown:

**82**

opener as well. The weather turned out to be fine with a little drizzle that started about 12:00 or so. The heavy rains came on the ride home. We had 16 Dogs attend which I thought was still pretty good even though we had the date re-scheduled. The team of Rick Anderson and Paul Johnson won tournament. This was the third year in a row that Rick has taken 1<sup>st</sup> place in our trout tournament. Nice job O.F. (he was my fantasy pick). The biggest fish was taken by James Ferstenou with a 14" brown. All teams caught fish. The winning team of Anderson and Johnson will discuss their tactics on winning the event at the May meeting.

After I returned home from the trout tournament I was off to Maple Grove area to pick my boat up from winter storage. I spent the next couple of days trying to get it ready for the crappie tourney for the end of the month. I was hoping to get out to Prior Lake last Friday afternoon for some pre-fishing, but a cold front came through that I figured would screw things up for a few days. I'm going to try again on 4/29 to get out to Prior Lake to see if I can find any crappies.

Mamas Boy

### **May speaker**

Paul Nedrud from National Camera will be our guest speaker for May. Paul has been with National Camera for 12 years and doing seminars for a number of years on various photography areas. The main thing I asked him to work with us on is digital camera functions and improving picture quality. Feel free to bring your camera, and any questions you might have for Paul to help you with.

### **Old Fart Gasses Up Another Winner**

The first tournament of the year was a rescheduled event held on April 16, after a four-week delay due to heavy snow conditions on the earlier date. Sixteen Dogs headed down to the Root River for trout on what was the general trout opener for all of the SW streams. The weather was cool and overcast early, with a drizzle developing later in the day, and then a downpour for the ride home. Typical Waterdog tourney conditions.

The team of Old Fart and Nasty Boy put together a winning stringer of eight brown and two rainbows as their ten best. The most amazing thing about the winners is that it was Old Fart's third trout win in a row, out of the three trout tournaments that we have had. Those spots on his face must not be age spots, they're trout markings! The boys caught more than 30 trout on mainly the part of Duschee Creek that runs down from the trout hatchery. Coincidence? Their fish came mainly on spinners, more specifically Panther Martins, discovered by Nasty to be the best acting baits on the river. The winners will present their strategy and techniques to the other club members at the May meeting, or their winning points will be forfeited. Also see Nasty's article at the end of this report.



**Old Fart hoists another Quarter Pounder**

The best fish were caught on the smaller streams that were also the same water that was open during the winter trout season. It seems that more of the locals prefer to fish the main branch of the Root after opener, which was crowded in places, and also put out less fish than were caught in the smaller waters. Spinners were the hot bait of the tournament, catching most of the fish for each team.



**Nasty and Old Fart found a Good Spot**

Four of the eight teams caught limits of 10 keeper-sized trout. In second place were Farm Boy and Griz, with a 14" brown caught by Griz as the largest fish of the tournament. In third were Felix and Fluffee, and in fourth were the Janitor and Helen Keller with the two only keeper-sized brook trout caught in the tournament. In fifth place were Carmen and Miller, and in sixth was Suzy and Mama's Boy. It was the third year-in-a-row for a club trout tournament, and was once again a great fun day and a successful outing.



**The Winners Circle**

### **From the Winners Circle**

For me trout fishing is done until fall. I couldn't have asked for a better winter and spring season. I got out three times, caught a bunch of trout each time, was paired with the Waterdog's hottest trout fisherman, and won the tournament. During my first pre fish I went down by myself. That was a great getaway from work that I really needed. The second pre fish was with OF and a friend of OF. We had a great time. And of course the tournament turned out great!

All three times, I fished the same section of stream with the same lure. I actually have five of that lure. I did lose one. I found the spot by accident. As I was driving around checking out spots, I finally just stopped and fished. The spot looks awful from the road, but after a short distance it turned into pool after pool. OF and I fished the same stretch two or three times on tournament day. We never moved and we never stopped catching fish. OF started us off with two fish in the first pool. An hour and a half in, we had seven fish on the board. After that we took turns having hot streaks. I caught four under one cut bank! My biggest was 13 inches and was caught just before lunch again under a cut bank. I bet we ended up with about 30 fish.

You'll have to wait until the meeting to get the rest of the story and a look at that hot lure.

Nasty

### **Crappie Tournament - Should Have been here the Prior week.**

Twenty-six Waterdogs attended the second tournament of the year, searching for crappies on Prior Lake on Saturday, April 30. As is now typical of club tournaments, the weather was 'below average' with 35-45 degree temperatures during the day and occasional snow squalls adding to the festive mood. The fish caught were tough to get with that poor weather, and just three of the 13 teams caught limits of ten fish. That compares to the trout tournament, where half the teams caught limits. The fish were tough, but we all still had a good time, with one of the highlights being the lunch at Captain Jack's arranged by Duper. It was a good chance to warm up and enjoy a meal together.

In the end, it was the team of Kojak and Griz who caught the winning stringer that included the day's biggest crappie, a 12-incher caught by Kojak. Says Griz, "Scott and I fished the same set of docks all day in 'The Harbor' and managed to catch somewhere between 40 and 50 crappies throughout the course of the day. A plain hook with the largest crappie minnows that we could sort out worked best. The fish seemed to bite best between 5.5' and 6' below the surface and you had to let them take it a long time before setting the hook." More details will be provided at the meeting.

In second place was the team of Felix and Kevin Miller with a limit caught mostly on Flu-Flu jigs. In third place were Nasty and Branden, with Nasty acting as the fairly reliable guide, captain and measuring boy as Branden caught most of the fish. Hopefully we will also hear from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-place teams at the meeting and what strategies they used.



In fourth place was Old Fart and Helen Keller, in fifth was Bag Balm and Fishdick, and sixth was The Janitor and Fluffee.

Other notable fish caught was a 20" pre-spawn largemouth caught by almost-Father Bertha, and an average-sized walleye caught by the Janitor, along with other largemouth and sunnies caught by many Dogs. There were also reports of bite-offs by unknown assailants. It was a good day to be on an apparently good-looking body of water, but you could just imagine how good it could have been if the weather would have cooperated.



**Cold Dogs – Colder Fish**

## **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>
✓ April 16 (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

## Waterdog 2005 Fantasy Fishing points/standings

		Root River Trout	points	Prior Lake Crappie	points	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mamas Boy</b>	<b>starter</b>	Old Fart	<b>19</b>	Suzy	3	<b>22</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Janitor	6	<b>18</b>
<b>Suzy</b>	<b>starter</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Bertha	3	<b>15</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Janitor	<b>10</b>	Nasty	12	<b>22</b>
<b>Happel</b>	<b>starter</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Perp.	3	<b>15</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Suzy	<b>6</b>	Fish Dick	8	<b>14</b>
<b>Griz</b>	<b>starter</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Old Fart	10	<b>22</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Old Fart	<b>19</b>	Suzy	3	<b>22</b>
<b>Farm Boy</b>	<b>starter</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Nasty	12	<b>24</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Felix	<b>12</b>	Roid	3	<b>15</b>
<b>Juan Valdez</b>	<b>starter</b>	Keller	<b>10</b>	Chain Saw	3	<b>13</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Old Fart	<b>19</b>	Miller	15	<b>34</b>
<b>Janitor</b>	<b>starter</b>	Fluffy	<b>12</b>	Roid	3	<b>15</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Bertha	<b>0</b>	Chain Saw	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Little Angel</b>	<b>starter</b>	Old Fart	<b>19</b>	Bertha	3	<b>22</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Buick- DNF	<b>0</b>	Fluffy	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Old Fart</b>	<b>starter</b>	Old Fart	<b>19</b>	Helen K.	10	<b>29</b>
	<b>backup</b>	Dr. Meat	<b>0</b>	Perp.	3	<b>3</b>

**Starters - points count for year end final standings**

**Backup - points are for tie breaker**