

The Dogumentary

29th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

May 2011

The Tug is the Drug

May 2011 Meeting

The May meeting will be at Tuttle's Grill and Bowling Alley on Shady Oak Road in Hopkins, as usual. Dinner starts around 6, and the meeting will follow at 7pm.

There will be two speakers at the May meeting, see Kirk's column for details.

From the Desk of the President, Captain Kirk



2011 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

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|------------|-----------------------------|
| May 5 | Monthly Meeting |
| May 21-22 | Walleye Tournament |
| June 2 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 18 | Bass Tournament |
| July 7 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 23-30 | LOTW Rock N Roll Musky Tour |
| August 4 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 1 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 10 | Multispecies Tournament |
| Oct 8 | Smallmouth Tournament |
| Nov 3 | Banquet! |

The open water season got off to a quick start on Saturday with our Prior Lake Crappie Tournament. It appeared many of the captains were scrambling last week to get their boats out of storage and checked out before hitting the water for crappies. I finally picked mine up on Wednesday and got it conditioned for a few hours of pre-fishing on Friday afternoon before the tournament. That first tournament always seems to sneak up on us but does force us to get everything in running condition. I saw where Fluff got a surprise and found it necessary to do some major repairs on his motor at the last minute. Thanks to Chainsaw for stepping up with his boat on short notice to complete the tournament field of captains needed.

Although we had some more of our usual Waterdog weather to start the day we were able to finish in the sunshine and warmer temperatures. The strong winds gave the captains an opportunity to demonstrate their boat control during the day and especially at the end trying to hit their trailer in the heavy crosswind. I think there had been a lot of concern last week on how this event would turn out

with the poor fishing reports and the weather forecast. In the end lots of fish were caught, the sun came out, we had a great lunch and we avoided another Lake Washington.

One of my goals is to fish with all the club members whether it is in one of our tournaments or a casual outing. After 5 years in the club I have had a chance to fish with 27 of the current 34 members. I look forward to an opportunity to share a boat with the rest of you some time this year. Some of you may get a call or email with an offer to get out for an afternoon or evening of fishing this spring.

The Seminar committee has put together a full program for this Thursday's meeting when we will have two speakers. We will hear from Tom Jones who is with the DNR's Aitkin office. He is an expert on the Mille Lacs Walleyes which we will be pursuing in a couple of weeks. We will also hear from a speaker who has done research on scented soft plastic baits like Gulp, Trigger and Power Baits. He is Dr. Jason Halfen who is a chemistry professor at U of W Eau Claire in addition to being a fishing guide. We will try and limit the Analyst to 5 questions for each of these guys in order to keep the meeting on time.

I look forward to seeing all of you Thursday.

Shatner

"One thing becomes clearer as one gets older and one's fishing experience increases, and that is the paramount importance of one's fishing companions."

John Ashley-Copper & OF

WD Crappie Tournament – The Great Predictor

It's been a number of years in a row that the club's Crappie tournament has taken place during some tough weather, and this year was no different. Rain and wind were with us from the landing until just after lunch when it quit raining and gradually cleared. At least the crappies were cooperative despite the fact that the main lake and bay waters were mostly in the 47-48 degree range with a few reports of warmer areas up to 50. Even with the cold, the crappies were up shallow, and some of the smaller bays were the best producers.

There were 27 Waterdogs at the tournament all dressed in the latest foul-weather fashions. Best-dressed honors went to Bud and Greenstick, who

both showed up in their waders, which is fine until you need to use the Pee-Buddy.



In all, there were 196 crappies on the scorecards, not counting the culls of the top three teams that limited out with 30 for each team.

The largest crappies caught were 11.5", one each for team-mates Shorty and Griz, and there were also 5 other crappies caught that were 11", and many others in the 10" range. So the numbers and size were good for a lake that no doubt gets a lot of pressure every year. At least now we know where and how to catch some quality crappies on Prior Lake.

The tournament was won by the team of Helen and Shatner, with a limit of 30 that calculated to 22.64 pounds, or about ¾ of a pound per crappie. The second place team of Buick and nasty also got 30 crappies for 19.4 lbs, and the other 30-fish limit was caught by Little Angel and Father Bertha with 17 lbs.



Crappies Bring a Smile to Everyone's Face

Location, Location, Location: the key to Saturday's Win

By Helen

Thanks to Kirk, Saturday was a pretty fun outing, rain and all. See, Kirk had a chance to get out and pre-fish Friday (does this guy ever work?) and hunt down a spot that held high numbers of Crappies. In fact he called me at work to tell me that he caught about 15 fish in his first minutes pre-fishing. He was pretty excited that he had found a great location so quickly.

I did have plans to me up with him latter that day, but work and other obligations got in the way, so he arranged to fish with Nasty latter that afternoon. As planned, Nasty and Kirk toyed with each other. They checked out all the hot spots on the lake. Neither caught a fish the rest of the day.

Come Saturday morning, we left the landing with Buick and Nasty head of us. They bee lined to the same cut Kirk fished in the day before, which was just a around the corner from the landing. Felix and Peter "the swimmer" Yawn following us. You got to love the gamesmanship.

Buick and Nasty moved into the same small bay we wanted to fish. The bay was no larger than 50 yards by 50 yards, but lucky for us, they moved about 10 to 20 yards past the prime bit of shoreline

Kirk had fished the day before. We claimed the spot, anchored up and had at it. We had fish on the card within minutes of getting hooks in the water.

We we're joined latter by Little Angle and Bertha, adding to the social aspect that is the Waterdogs.

Action was steady in the morning, then waxed and waned the rest of the day, but we had a full card and were culling fish by about 10:00 am. We were concerned it was going to be a tough go, watching Buick's, Felix's and LA's boats constantly bring in quality fish.

True to from, Kirk used pink Gulp Fish Fry, while I used minnows on a 1/32 oz gold Little Nipper. I think either bait worked equally, the diversity working well until latter in the day, when Kirk had to switch over to minnows to get a bite. We also experimented with large vs small minnows. Most of our larger fish came on fatheads rather than crappie minnows, allowing us to cull up to a 9-inch minimum.

In the end, we logged a pretty good card, which surprised us a bit because we thought we'd be in 2nd or 3rd place, but just like is real estate, the key was location, location, location.

2011 Tournament Series Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

| Date | Species | Location | Dogs in Charge |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| √ Saturday April 2 | Trout | Wisconsin | Janitor - Shatner |
| √ Saturday April 30 | Crappie | Prior Lake | Griz – Banana - Suzy |
| Sat-Sun May 21-22 | Walleye | Mille Lacs | Fluffy - Carmen - Lil Angel |
| Saturday June 18 | Bass | Big Birch Lake | Analist - Bud |
| Saturday Sep 10 | Multispecies | Minnetonka | Chips - Spanky |
| Saturday Oct 8 | Smallmouth | Rum River | Perp - Buick |