

The Dogumentary

22nd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

June 2004

June Meeting – Reel Repair

The June meeting will be back to Chainsaw, Inc. again as we continue to fix rods and reels for Schara's 'Castaways for Kids' program. We'll be meeting at Silent Knight's warehouse at 9057 Lyndale Ave So. It's a white, L-shaped building on the east side of Lyndale. The garage door to get in, is around back. We'll meet at 5:30 – 6:00 with pizza arriving for dinner at 6. Bring reel repair tools, line strippers, oil, rags and plenty of fish stories to share.

The 2004 Waterdog Calendar

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 3 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 8 (2nd Thurs) | Monthly Meeting |
| July 24-31 | RocknRoll Musky Tour |
| Aug 5 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 2 | Monthly Meeting |
| Oct 7 | Monthly Meeting |

****See the tourney calendar for other dates****

Congratulations, Bertha!

Bertha became an ordained transitional deacon on May 1, a big step in becoming a priest. An article on this event appears in The Catholic Spirit website here:

www.thecatholicspirit.com/archives.php?article=2427

President's Corner – Matt Mueller:



To quote the character of Bancini (one of the chronic's from One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest); "I'm tired, I'm so tired". Well, I am tired, so very tired as well. I'm tired of home projects, I'm tired of travel, I'm tired of work, I'm tired of struggling for fish (ie, last Saturday on the St. Croix). I don't know about the rest of you, but life seems to be getting in the way of fishing and it's starting to bug me. These last two tournaments have done nothing to make me feel better about it either. I suppose my results on the St. Croix and Lake Koronis might exemplify why we call it "fishing" instead of "catching fish". Perhaps things will settle down for me and I'll be able to better focus on "catching fish" once my home projects are done, my daughter's graduation party has come and gone and the work travel slackens off. In the meantime I'll always have my Lake of the Woods fantasies. I'm sure you all realize how quickly those fantasies will be realized, less then 60 days!

I'll leave the LOTW fantasies and my Carp & Grouse Society comments behind and just share a few other things. I've been focusing on recruiting lately. I hope you all have as we still have openings. I do expect we will have a new member or even two to meet this Thursday

which may put us near the limit for the year. To better help in recruiting and as a basic tool to educate any outsider, I put together a Waterdogs Fact Sheet. My thanks to Duper for all his input. I hope you all have gotten a copy as an actual enclosure to the newsletter and as a .pdf attached to your newsletter email. In the days when we had the time, money and motivation to maintain a website, we had that as a way to share information about the club. Perhaps at some point we'll bring back the website. In the meantime I thought this Fact Sheet would serve as a good overview of the club. We'll need to update it periodically but I'd encourage you all to feel free to use it digitally or in hard copy as appropriate. I'd entertain an input you have but will try to stick to current set up.

As our editor has mentioned, we'll be working on the Castaways again this meeting so plan accordingly. See you at Chainsaw's (yes, I will be there!).

Record Turnout for Crappie Contest

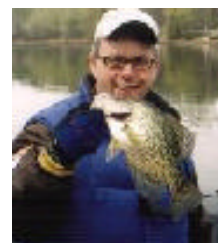
For the first time in the 22-year club history, the club had a 100% turnout at an event, at the Crappie Tournament on Lake Koronis on May 8. All 28 club members attended the event, with nearly half sleeping over Friday night at the Haagenson farm. The club thanks Farm Boy, and his folks, and also Luan, for the great hospitality and lunch that we all enjoyed on this fun fishing trip.

The tournament was a good time, as well, and not so much from the numbers of Crappies caught, but more from the camaraderie that comes from fishing amongst a tight flotilla of boats under a bridge, with the locals as an audience. The crappies were concentrated in few areas, with the most popular spot under the bridge attracting most of the fisherman on the lake. All kinds of other fish were caught under that bridge besides crappies, including: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, northerns, sunfish, bullheads, and even a walleye. It wasn't there that the tournament was won, however, as one boat left the pack for some peace and quiet in a small nook on the other side of the lake.



Just before lunch, Griz and Duper located a small area on the opposite end of the lake that had big crappies in it, and that also eluded others who scouted the lake earlier. They caught a few fish then, but after lunch went back with Juan in the boat, and managed to catch three limits of 10.5"-13.5" fish from the small spot. Each guy was using a different jig, or a plain hook with a minnow, and had fast action that included triples and multiple species. At the end of the tournament, the Griz craft left the party anglers in their wake. The Griz also caught the big fish of the tournament, with a pair of 13.5 inchers. Here is how the first six places stacked up:

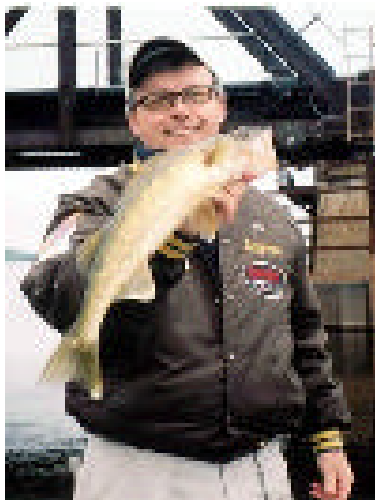
| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. James Ferstenou | 15.4 lbs. | 10 limit |
| 2. Steve Dupont | 14.9 | 10 limit |
| 3. Luan Sanderson | 14.2 | 10 limit |
| 4. Kevin Miller | 7.5 | 7 fish |
| 5. Tom Keller | 4.5 | 4 fish |
| 6. Tim Yanta | 4.3 | 7 fish |



It was also good to see two first-year members in the top six, I guess. As you can see by the top six, the numbers dropped off quickly, so other than a select few, the crappies were mostly tough. In fact, 9 guys only caught 1 keeper, and 7 were skunked. Perhaps next year, we could try a bigger lake with more potential crappies locations, like Minnetonka.

It was the Ghost of Fishing Past at the St. Croix Walleye Tournament

On May 22, the third Waterdogs tournament of the year was held on the St Croix River out of Hudson, WI. Fishing was tough for keeper walleyes or saugers, which had to be 15" to count. Many other species were caught, along with a bunch of short fish, but in the end, only 6 keeper walleyes or saugers were caught among the 23 Dogs in attendance. The tournament was a reminder that if the fish are off, a tournament can be a bust, although we have seen even poorer performances in the past. One Dog caught two keeper walleyes to win, and that was Duper, with a 15" and a 19" fish for a total of 3.7 lbs. The 19 was also the tournament big fish. Duper caught his fish on a bottom bouncer and spinner with a minnow. The next four places were single fish catches with the rankings of: 2nd-Nasty, 3rd-Little Angel, 4th-Shorty, 5th-Bertha, skunks-18.



Duper and Marble-eyed Friend

For most of us, the highlight of the tournament was watching the big jackhammer knock off chunks of concrete from the 94 bridge, and having them crash into the barge or water below. It was such a peaceful racket that it lulled Chainsaw to sleep after lunch. At least now we can put the live bait aside for a bit.



Bugle-Mouth Walleyes Count Double

Suzy Leads Tournament Series

After three tournaments, and four to go, Steve Dupont leads in point standings after placing sixth, second, and first, and not counting special services points. His point total so far is 42, followed by Griz with 37, and then Little Angel at 28, Nasty Boy at 26, and Buick at 24. With four tournaments to go, it's still early in the season, with many points still coming, especially with three of the remaining tournaments being team events.

LOTW Trip Update: Hot Rockin'

By Suzy

Less than 60 days until the annual trip. We're still holding steady at 22, although Bagbalm will need to leave a day early, resulting in a 3-person boat and decreasing our chance of breaking the 100 fish mark this year (am I laying it on thick enough for you Baggie?).

You will receive shirts and your booklets during the June meeting. I'll have extra booklets for the guys who can't attend this year, too. Each participant also will receive a custom CD with fishy songs at the July meeting, compliments of the Fluffmeister. For those of you who ordered shirts, please bring \$20 with you.

We're also selling Power Lure tickets for \$5. Everyone can play – even if you're not going on the trip.

After our June meeting, trip participants should consult with their assigned cabin mates about food and beverages. As you will recall, our new policy is that each cabin takes care of its own food and beverages (and splits the cost between each other). A suggested menu and shopping list are included in booklet to serve as a guide.

A couple side notes:

Water Levels -- I've been watching the chat rooms and checking the Flag Island web cam site, which also includes a link to current water levels for LOTW as measured at Cyclone Island. Water levels are about 1-2 feet above normal so far.

Musky University – will be at LOTW two weeks prior to our trip. They typically stay at Monument Bay Lodge.



The new trophy for the most muskies caught during the LOTW trip – The Milk Can.

Hooked and Set on....Karl Hamre



Edited by Suzy

Handle: O.J. or Buzz

How did you get your handles? I earned the O.J. handle because I used to own a white Ford Bronco at one time. The Buzz handle came about when the club was going up north for our annual Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour. My radio had a problem so that whenever I keyed the mike it would make a "buzzing" noise.

When did you join the club: 1994

What club committees have you worked on, or leadership positions have you held: Special services, phone callers, photo committee.

Family (wife, kids, pets, etc.): None of the above. Had a fish tank once, but they died.

Age: 56

Hometown: Rosemount, Minn.

Where you currently live: West St. Paul. Moved there in 2002. Needed a bigger garage. Now my garage is full so I need an even BIGGER GARAGE.

School: Rosemount High School

Your job: Utilities unit at Flint Hills Resources (Koch Refinery)

Your favorite fishing reel: I have an old Quick 1400 spinning reel that I've had for 30 years – it still works great. But, I recently purchased a Pflueger President reel. Boy, is she sweet.

Your favorite fishing rod: I have a Fenwick that came with the old Quick reel. It has a great feel for the walleyes.

Your favorite fishing lure: I love to use top water lures when I fish for bass. Old Fart got me hooked on Scum Frogs.

Boat: Ranger 518 Comanche, with a 200 hp Yamaha V Max engine.

Truck: 2004 red Chevy Suburban.

Your personal bests (by inches or pounds):

Musky – 41 in.

Northern pike – 38 in.

Walleye -24 in.

Largemouth bass - 21.5 in.

Smallmouth bass -17 in.

Trout/salmon -13.5 in. rainbow

Carp: Don't know, everyone I caught I threw back.

The fish that you like to fish for the most:

That's a tough one for me. I like fishing for bass, muskie and walleye.

Your favorite lake or river on which you like to fish: Leech Lake

Favorite pro angler: Don't have one.

Your fishing fantasy: Getting that 50-inch plus muskie.

All-time favorite fishing memory: One of my all-time favorite memories was when Felix and I were fishing on Lake Waconia. We caught a lot of bass that day, including my 21.5-in. largemouth.

Favorite fishing technique: I love to watch a fish hit a top water bait.

Favorite fishing magazine: MidWest Outdoors or In-Fisherman.

Favorite fishing TV show: The Fishing Edge.

Favorite fishing radio show: The programs on KFAN-AM.

Best fishing tip you could give to the rest of the Dogs: Relax and enjoy your time on the water -- it sure beats working.

Favorite cut of meat: Rib-eye

Favorite restaurant: Porterhouse Restaurant in Center City, Minn.

Favorite beverage: Anything with sugar or caffeine in it. Water will work in a pinch.

Favorite musical artist or band: Shawn Phillips from back in the 70's

Other hobbies or interests, besides fishing: Golf and bicycling, especially when I'm following a lady with a nice derriere.

I like being a Waterdog because... it's a good group of guys who enjoy fishing and like a little competition.

Rituals or habits you perform to improve your fishing ability: Check your equipment before you get on the water. Have your rods and reels ready.

Favorite fishing memory with the Dogs: I have always enjoyed the drive up north on the first Saturday of the Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour. I will miss that this year.

Word that best describes you: I'm not telling.

Here is the tournament schedule for this year. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

| <u>Waterdogs Tournament Schedule – 2004</u> | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Date | Type | Species | Location | Dog In Charge |
| March 27 | Team | Trout | Whitewater River | Fluffee |
| May 8 | Individual | Crappie | Koronis | Farm Boy |
| May 22 | Individual | Walleye | St. Croix River | Carmen |
| June 11 (Fri) | Team | Bass | Minnetonka | Shorty |
| August 21-22 | Team | Multi (overnite) | Vermillion | Chips |
| Sep 11-12 | Team | Multi (overnite) | Chippewa Flowage | Griz |
| Oct 2 | Individual | Bass | Clearwater | Nasty Boy |