

# The Dogumentary

30th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

June 2012

## June Meeting at Tuttle's

The June 7 meeting will feature former member Phil Mattison who lives on Forest Lake. Phil will talk about finding the various species on Forest Lake prior to our upcoming tournament. Phil is a high-energy speaker who's talk promises to be both informative and entertaining.

The meeting starts at 7 with dinner starting at 6.

## 2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

<b>June 1</b>	<b>Bass Tournament</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>Multi Tournament</b>
<b>July 12</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>July 21-28</b>	<b>LOTW Rock'nRoll Musky Tour</b>
<b>Aug 2</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Multi Tournament</b>
<b>Sep 6</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Multi Tournament</b>
<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Bass Tournament</b>
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>Banquet</b>

See the last page for 2012 Tourney Details

## Upcoming Speakers:

July: Robb Kimm – Muskies on LOTW

Aug: Herman Fasbender – Former Dog talks about the St Croix River

## *From the Desk of the President, Greenstick – Dave Haberle*



Holy cow – where did the spring go? It's June already! And possibly by the time you read this, we'll have completed our first bass event and we'll be half-way through our tournament season. The time is just zooooooming by – I haven't even had my boat out of the garage yet this year!

Many congratulations to Walleye Winners Analist and Fish Dick for demonstrating their stellar fishosity skills at the St. Louis River event a couple weeks ago! And kudos to Little Angel & Griz for "most walleyes in the boat" on that most challenging day, too. As for our boat, I can only express my appreciation for Captain Janitor's fabulous job at zigzagging along the edges of many sections of the river, both the south end, way up north, and many points between as we hunted for something other than clams or perch. I'm not absolutely sure, but I think we could have won the prize for most fuel consumed in search for the wily walleye but not once... NOT ONCE, I tell you, were we ever in jeopardy of beaching the speedy Ranger in the middle of a sand bar!

Pards, I think we outfished everybody – but on that Saturday we just were outcaught... dang...

At the time of this writing, the YTD stats show the Analist way out in the lead (well, by a whole point) over club Chairman Shatner, and yours truly is on the list, too... (although barely) But the Stick of Green is going to make a strong comeback in the next couple events with some awesome new weaponry – just wait and see! The bass simply won't be able to resist my new super-Senko and the June 23rd multi-species tournament will see something really special -- if I can get it to work by then. Stay tuned...

I'm pleased to see some of the dogs contribute a photo or two here and there, and thankful for Nasty's diligence in pointing his camera lens in most everybody's direction. I'm not sure where the FluffyCam 3000 is these days, but hopefully that will resurface and make an appearance soon, perhaps yielding some good commentary to accompany the video, too. Remember, fellow dogs, the photo committee can't do it alone – they need all the help they can get!

This past month, our Waterdog family suffered its second loss this year when Helen's dad passed away. But it was particularly refreshing to see Tom finding the time to fish the walleye tournament and hopefully regain some normalcy, although I'm sure he would have liked to have put some fish in the boat, too... It's okay, Helen -- you guys tied the Janitor and I! (I know... big whoop...)

The Analist and I were talking the other day and he mentioned a future event idea that might be fun. He'd talked to some of the Duluth guys who ran the Walleye Tournament on the St. Louis River during the same time we were there, and there's some interest in a sort of home-and-home challenge match between our club and theirs. They're a multi-species club too and it would be interesting to hear your viewpoint on the, not for this year but for 2013. Send me an email and let me know.

See you out on the water!

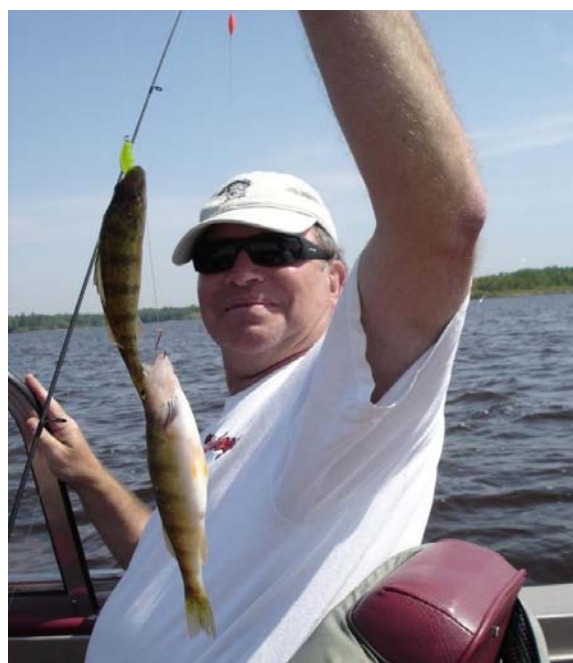
Greenstick

## Where's Waldo?

The third tournament of the year found the club back to familiar waters at the St. Louis River in Duluth for walleyes. We know the waters and we know the methods, but the fish were off the feed, as only 9 walleyes were caught by the 25 Dogs in the tournament. Another group was also having a walleye tournament on the same day, but had much more success with the morning bite than the Waterdogs had with our 2pm-9pm schedule. And then the last hour-plus of fishing for the day was cancelled by a thunderstorm, ending what may have been the low-light bite that we were aiming for.

Although few walleyes were caught, many other species were brought in, which is an indication of just how off the walleye bite was. Other species boated were largemouth and smallmouth bass, northerns, catfish, crappies, rock bass, perch, gobies, and a couple of muskies were seen or lost. Many clams also found a way to get hooked, and more of those were caught than walleyes.

With the weather-shortened day, the tournament lasted just 6 hours, and at the end the winning team was The Analist and FD with two fish of 19" and 22" for a pound higher total than the second-place team of Little Angel and Griz who had three fish. Four other teams caught single walleyes, and six teams were shut out.



Plenty of Action, but Few Walleyes

Of the two fish caught by Mark and Bob, the 19" hit a perch Hot 'n Tot while trolling with the electric and coming off a shallow lip into deeper water in the channel leading to Spirit Lake. Repeating the process could not come up with another fish.



The second 22" walleye came upstream, from "Walleye Alley" on a pink jig and leech drifting with the current and set below a slip bobber to keep it off the snaggy bottom. That process was also repeated for a couple more hours, but only caught more off-colored species.



Like most waters, you still have to be at the right place at the right time to get the walleyes to bite, even on the St. Louis River, which in the past has been so good to us. It is also frustrating some times when so many other species will bite, except the one you're looking for.

This tournament had options for staying over either Friday or Saturday nights or driving up and back all on Saturday, and as expected, members took advantage of the flexibility and worked the tournament into their schedules as desired. Unfortunately, the drive back on Saturday night was a pain with the many thunderstorms that continued to sweep through the state.

### **Troutzilla Found**

By Felix

Fishing with Captain Kirk is always a great experience! Whether it is Bass or Trout we always have a good time and seems like one of us catches a memorable fish. Two years ago I caught my personal best Brown Trout, 18 1/2", on "Peterson Creek" in Wisconsin with Shatner, same creek on which he and his partner won the last tournament.

Monday, May 14th, Kirk suggested we try a river a little closer to home and we found ourselves on the Vermillion River east of Farmington. We started about 5:30. It was combat fishing, hard to move in or out of the water, hard to cast with lots of trees and brush. And not much evidence of other fisherman.

About an hour into the excursion we came upon an "S" curve in the river with the width of the "S" about 8' to 10' wide with pools on both our side and the opposite side. We were casting from the bottom side of the "S" thru the narrow run into the pool on the top side. Kirk cast first, and on his retrieve hooked a nice 16"+ Brown Trout.

As he was netting his fish I tossed a cast into the upper pool. I had retrieved about a quarter of my cast and felt a good hit, set the hook, and then nothing, kept reeling as fast as I could and finally felt the weight again! She had raced towards me upon striking my gold colored Rapala. The Ultra-Light was bent nearly in half! I was thinking I was happy I had just put new line on the reel!

My first glimpse of the fish, as I stood in the water to over my knees, was just to my left and about 3' to 4' away. I recall either thinking or saying "That can't be a Trout, it's too big!" I thought it was a huge Sucker or Carp. Then we realized it was a huge Trout.



Kirk had released his fish but his Rapala was hung up in the net. He jumped back in the water with the net in one hand and his fishing rod in the other. The fish was making half circle runs around me, never going into the shallower water behind me, but side to side, as Kirk tried to maneuver without causing a problem. Two or three attempts are made to net the fish with the net/Rapala/fishing rod combination, once bumping it but, thankfully, not losing it!

Words are in the air but I can't tell you what they were! I hear the wine of the line as the fish took bits of drag! Never long runs but many short bursts! Had someone been watching I'm sure this looked like "The Keystone Kops try to catch a Fish".



Finally, Kirk was able to come from behind and scoop her up. My gold Rapala came out of her in the net without either of us touching it! High Fives and BIG smiles as we saw how big she was, 22 1/4", on a tape measure! Several photos and back in the water she goes. A little revival time and she makes her way to the bottom right next to us with gills flexing rhythmically, seemingly no longer concerned about us as we stood in the water next to her. We cast a few more times into the pool and then moved on.



Between the two of us we caught 20+ fish in three hours, most in the 15" to 16" category with only a couple smaller fish.

Every day since then I am still seeing that first glimpse I caught of her in the water next to me! As I said in the beginning, "Fishing with Captian Kirk is always a great experience!" and this was the best so far!!!

### **Grapplin the Groupers**

By Spanky

This is a very small goliath grouper (about 40 pounds) caught in 60 feet of water 30 miles off Ft. Myers Beach, Fl. It was my last trip out before driving back to Minnesota. The season was closed for gag and black grouper so we were seeking red grouper. We had caught reds in this area before so out we went armed with chum, shrimp, squid, and live pinfish that we had been catching and saving at my dock in a live bait keeper in the canal. We had been waiting for a calm day as it had been a windy spring and finally it came.



After about an hour of running we threw a marker buoy over the "spot". You can see the red dot in the picture. It helps in getting the boat anchored as close as possible to the structure. This is not an easy task after dropping 180 feet of line and factoring in current and wind. On the third try we were close enough to drop the chum and get to fishing.

The chum was moving off behind the boat as desired and slowing working its way to the bottom. On its way down the smaller fish start to come around and eat it. This gets the grouper to come out of their hiding places and eat those little fish. The first couple of fish caught were white grunts. Each weighed about 2 pounds. Great eating fish and were deposited on ice in the fish box to be cleaned and fried later. We started with shrimp as bait and caught more white grunts but I was ready to catch grouper so I put on one of our live pinfish on a circle hook (required) and a 4 ounce weight. If the grouper are at home they can't resist a tasty pinfish. Within seconds my rod was bent with the weight of a good fish. With grouper the first few seconds are critical. You have to get them off the bottom quickly or they will swim back in their hole and you will not get them out. Once off the bottom and being pulled up they seldom come

off the hook. But often times they don't make it to the surface! More on that later.

The three of us fished for another two hours and caught a combination of red and gag grouper using pinfish for bait. The gags had to go back even though many of them were over the 23" size limit. The biggest was a 27" bruiser. For those of you who have never caught grouper, they are like walleyes on steroids. After a good day of grouper fishing my arms are sore from pulling them up that 60 feet.

Going back to the small goliath grouper pictured (they used to be called jewfish but of course we have to be politically correct now.) The reason they were called jewfish I was told is that the immature fish have what looks like the Star of David on their dorsal fins. I thought I had a very large gag or red grouper on when I hooked that fish. I wasn't sure I could get it to the surface but with gaff and help we did. He was released. The problem is they are protected. They have become pests. After two hours of catching and releasing fish the goliath groupers start to show up for the smorgasbord of slightly injured and tired fish that are trying to get down to the bottom but never make it.

What happens is, you set the hook on a fish, get it off the bottom, and somewhere in between your 5 pound red grouper gets eaten by a 150 pound goliath grouper and there is no way you are going to bring him up on the tackle you are using. So, you have to break the line, retie and start over. However, that's not a real good idea because once they show up maybe one fish out of five will make it to the boat. I had a grouper coming up and I was reeling as fast as I could and looking down into the gulf, where out there visibility is about 15', and all I saw was an open mouth coming up and swallowing my good-size grouper. He turned, his fin slapped the surface and he went straight down creating a wake that rocked the 30 foot boat we were fishing in. It was quite an amazing sight. He was a big boy, maybe 200lbs. My line, of course snapped and we called it a day. We kept 3 keeper reds and headed back to the beach. It was a great day.



## Shorty's Tarpon Adventure Series

This year's tarpon tour did not see the numbers caught in prior years but it was not without excitement. Susie, landed what was estimated to be well over a 200-pound fish, and was close to losing his cookies after an awesome fight. I asked if I could take the rod from him, but he knew he would hear about it for the rest of his waterdog career. The weather conditions were perfect, which enabled us to fish the beach quit easily. Huck also came down to fish for a day and landed about a 100-pounder, who tried to tail slap him at release. My largest for the week was in the 150-pound class, and Susie was able to capture some aerial acrobatics. We even got a bit of Golf in, Susie's swing is a cross between Jim Furyck and Charles Barkley.



Guys, I have the same dates booked for next year around the middle of May. Don't miss the fun!

## Chips Keeps Rockin'

Jeff got another turkey this year on his annual hunt, weighing 23.5 pounds and a 9.5 inch beard—shot on 5-5-12 at 6:35 AM.



Not to settle with just a turkey, Jeff also became a grandfather with the birth of his new grandson Calvin. He weighed in at 6 pounds 3 ounces-no beard yet & he was born on 5-11-12 at 1:01 PM. He is named after Jeff's father Calvin who has been gone for 25 years already this coming June. Here is Calvin with mom Anna and Grandpa Jeff.



Three Generations of Chips

## 2012 Tournament Schedule

<b>Date (Saturdays)</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dogs in Charge</b>
√ Mar 17	7:30-2pm	Trout	Wisconsin	Fluffee – Shatner
√ Apr 14	6:30-1pm	Trout	Wisconsin	Fluffee – Shatner
√ May 19	2-9pm	Walleye	St Louis River	Little Angel – Chips
June 1 (Fri)	1-9pm	Bass	Scott/Dakota Cos.	Felix – Banana
June 23	5:30-noon	Multi	Forest Lake	Perp – Carmen
Aug 17 (Fri)	6:30-1:30pm	Multi	St Croix	OF - Janitor
Sep 8		Multi	Pepin	Suzy - Hillary
Oct 6		Bass	Clearwater	Griz - Nasty