

The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2005

Next Meeting – Maximum Musky Fever

The July meeting on Thursday, July 7, will be conducted at Thorne Brothers not the Hopkins VFW. Please arrive between 6 and 6:30 p.m. Pizza and sodas will be provided by Dominos and the cost will be split among all Dogs and guests who attend.

All Dogs and guests who are participating in the annual trip will receive a trip booklet. In addition, the Dogs also will receive their trip t-shirts, trip CD and for those who ordered one, a Waterdogs stocking cap. Suzy will go through the trip details starting at 6:30 p.m. T-shirts cost \$22 and stocking caps are \$11. Suzy also will bring new fishing caps for those who have not picked them up yet. These cost \$12.

Musky guide Steve Jonesi will speak to the Dogs at around 7 - 7:15 p.m. for about 30 minutes. Following Steve's talk, we'll take care of any other club business and then the Dogs can pick up any musky gear at Thorne Brothers, which is open until 8:30 p.m. (but will remain open until all Dogs have purchased their goodies). If you ordered any items in advance -- rods, reels, lures, books -- these will be waiting for you to pick up at the counter.

Even though the focus of the July meeting will be on the annual trip, all Dogs are encouraged to attend, even if you're not going on the annual trip. Thorne Brothers is extending a one-night only 15% discount on all fishing lures. Remember we have a musky/pike tournament on Mille Lacs and an outing on Wassota later this year.

The August meeting will return to the Hopkins VFW.

The 2005 Waterdog Calendar

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| July 7 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 23-30 | RockNRoll Musky Tour |
| Aug 4 | Monthly Meeting |
| Aug 20 | Bass Tourney |
| Sep 1 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 17 | Musky/Pike Tourney |
| Oct 6 | Monthly Meeting |
| Oct 15 | Wissota Outing |
| Nov 3 | Banquet – Biaggi's |

Tournament details are on the last page.

Days Until LOTW Countdown:

!!! 18 !!!

Panic Time!

President's Corner: Doug Squire



Here we are already at the end of June, and it's been a little tough for me to get out on the water. Way too many projects and events that I need to attend to this month. Next month at

this time I won't have any excuses as we will be at Lake of the Woods. I'm looking forward to the trip as I have started to prepare the boat, rods and reels and even took a digital photo of my musky baits so I knew what I had. I'll bring my photos to next months meeting, so I make sure I don't purchase anything I already have.

On June 11-14 we took a family vacation to Door County Wisconsin. We had planned this trip with relatives from my wife's side of the family, to celebrate her father's 70th birthday. At the Sport Show this year I asked a couple of charter companies how the fishing might be in early June, they told me it's a little early in the salmon and trout season as that typically doesn't start going until late June. With that report I didn't book a trip during the Sport Show and figured I just make a call if time permitted when we were on our trip. It didn't take long after we got to Sturgeon Bay that I got that itch to be out on the lake. I called one of the charter companies to see if there would be a chance to get out on short notice. I spoke with Fox Charters to get a fishing report. I happened to speak to the wife of the captain as he was out on the boat when I called. She told me that fishing had been fantastic for the last week, which is way sooner than they expected. I asked if we could get out in one of the three days we were going to be in town and she promptly replied how about tomorrow at 4:45AM? She told me they hadn't had anybody booked this early so they are taking friends and neighbors out while the fishing is good. So I booked a 4:45 – 11:00 trip for the following morning.

The forecast for the day looked as though we might get some thunderstorms or rain but temperatures were going to be in the 80's. We had five in our group me and Bryan, my wife's sister and two of her brother in-laws. The weather turned out nice during the whole trip, no rain and light winds. We ended up going out about six miles to a spot that they caught fish the day before. We were fishing in about 275 feet of water and varying depths from 80feet to just under the surface. It only took about 15 minutes after we got our lines in the water until we had a fish. We took the traditional route and gave the first fish to my sister in-law. It took her about five minutes to land the first fish, a 20lb Chinook salmon. This 20lb fish happened to be the largest of the trip, but we had many fish in the 15 lb range. We

each took turns after that and caught a few more fish in the same area. Then things started slowing down a bit, so the captain had to change his game plan and moved further south as he felt the heavy wind the day before moved the fish. Captain Fox knew his stuff, he had been a charter captain for 22 years. Many of the charter captains kept in touch on their marine band radios for fishing reports. Most of the other captains were not getting near the numbers of fish that we were getting. At the end of the six hours we landed 20 salmon and 2 rainbow trout with a number of lost fish. Not bad for a spur of the moment trip. If you're looking for a charter company in Sturgeon Bay I don't think Fox Charters will disappoint you. They can be reached at 920-743-3092.

Mamas Boy

The Ole St Louie Comes Through Again

The third tournament of the year was also the third time that the club has fished the St. Louis River out of Duluth, and once again, the waters lived up to their big reputation. The two-day event saw many walleyes caught, with a total of 15 out of a possible 18 team limits being caught during the tournament. The walleyes were also quite respectable in size, with the majority of the fish in the 14" – 22" range. Although there were no really big walleyes caught, the action was consistent for most anglers.

The weather was true to Waterdog tournament form, with an all-day blowing rain on Saturday, and temperatures around 50 making it quite uncomfortable for most everybody, especially for those who were unprepared for such foul weather. Many of us just had tennis shoes on, and spent many hours sloshing around with cold and wet feet. On day two we got smarter and used plastic bag liners for more protection from the elements, which of course turned out to be unnecessary.

Day one ended and day two began with a thick fog that made driving the cars and boats quite difficult until it burned off on Sunday. The early Sunday start had about 100' visibility on the river, so we delayed a half-hour, but it was still very hard to see buoys and boats in the thick soup. The Tournament ended with a warming afternoon that enabled us to strip down a bit,

but then the rain came back for the now-traditional soggy drive home.

The tournament was won by the team of Fluffy and Helen Keller, who finally put together a pattern for bigger fish on the last half of the tournament on Sunday, to move them from third to first place. The boys will fess up and share their strategy at the July meeting. Most teams did well, and besides walleyes, there were many other species and assorted creatures caught. The team of Little Angel and Suzy came in second by culling through many walleyes, in addition to a good share of zebra mussels and river ruffies. In third was the trio of Rocky Leibrock, Old Fart, and Felix, and in fourth were Buick and Juan Valdez. Buick also went multi-species with catches of a 42" musky and a 25" sturgeon. Rounding out the top six teams were Nasty and Fishdick in fifth, and Kojak and Bud Miller in sixth.

Big fish honors were a couple of 22 inchers caught by Duper and Old Fart, although many other fish over 20" were caught. Overnight accommodations were great at the Americinn, including a dinner-time visit from the national champion Slowest Waitress.



Duper with a 22



Fluffy and Helen with a couple of nice ones.



Buick and his not-so accidental 42" musky



Buick and prehistoric friend

Bob n Bob Dominate at Minnetonka

The Minnetonka multi-species tournament was held on Friday June 24, with 20 Dogs taking the day off from work to attend the event. True to Waterdog Tournament tradition, a lightning storm threatened the event after the first hour, which sent the ten boats scurrying for protection for about an hour until the storm moved past. The rest of the day was great weather, with sun and light winds.

The fishing was slow, however, as most teams struggled to catch the six qualifying species of any size. As usual, the largemouth bass were the most cooperative, with also some walleyes, smallmouth, crappies and northerns caught, but no muskies. There were sightings from several muskies, but none bit. In the end, it was the team of The Janitor and Carmen that blew away the field with four species of good sizes. Janitor also caught the biggest fish of the tournament, a 19" smallmouth on a crawler rig, which was worth 100 points in the calculation (the equivalent of a patch fish). That fish alone would have won the tournament, but the rest of their stringer was also made up of good sized fish, and even without the smallie, they still would have won. The boys will fess up to their over-achieving methods at the July meeting.

The rest of the field was Felix and Chips in second, Juan Valdez and Duper in third, Fishdick and Griz in fourth, OJ and the perp in fifth, and Mama's Boy and Bud Miller in sixth.



Janitor with his monster smallie

Dear Suzy (Special LOTW Version)



Dear Suzyeroo,

During one of our past LOTW trips, me and one of the Dogs were working the shoreline of an island. We were about two hundred or so yards from the point of the island when another boat with two Dogs who shall remain nameless, pulled up near the point of the island. We were somewhat pissed off until we saw them catch a musky -- then we were really pissed off. Don't you think it was rude of them to fish one of our spots? BF'd

Dear BF'd,

What's this? You're claiming the entire shoreline as yours? Sounds kind of greedy to me. The fact is, you were probably just exploring, whereas the other Dogs had identified a specific spot. And it sounds like

they gave your boat a reasonable amount of space it. Now, if they had pulled up right in front of you -- say a 100 yards or less -- then I think you've got a beef. On the other hand, with all of the great spots and the miles upon miles of shoreline to fish, it always amazes me how so many anglers (Dogs and non-Dogs) seem to always fish the same places.

Dear Suzee ,

What's the proper way to hold a musky after I've caught one to take a photo? Huggy Bear

Dear Huggy Bear,

The musky's well being should be your first priority. It's always best if you can avoid lifting a musky out of the water. But, when you do want to obtain a photo, it's best to slide one hand in the gill plates, to securely hold the head of the fish, and then place your other hand/arm under the fish's belly and hold the fish horizontally. Never hold the fish vertically. Never hold the fish in the gill area with just one hand either -- it places too much pressure on the fish's spine. Before you place your hands on the fish, make sure the lure has been removed and also make sure your hands are wet so as to avoid removing the fish' protective slime. Dick Pearson says a fish should only be removed from the water for as long as you can hold your breath -- about 30 seconds -- so before you lift the fish out, make sure your fishing partner has the camera ready (and is familiar in advance of how to use it). After the photos, gently place the fish back in the water and if need be, hold the fish by its tail and slowly move it back and forth to have water move through its gills again. Don't leave the fish until you see it leave under its own power.

Dear Suzy,

Every year during the LOTW trip, I run into this -- by the middle of the week, the bathroom in our cabin is just disgusting. Nothing against my fellow Waterdogs, but the guys I'm usually

assigned to be with are just plain old slobs. Should I just keep the bathroom clean or grin, hold my nose, and bare it? Mr. Clean

Dear Mr. Clean,

It's every cabinmate's responsibility to keep a cabin clean and in reasonable order so you can concentrate on what you're there for -- to fish. That means sharing the responsibilities for cooking, cleaning dishes, etc. When it comes to the bathroom, each cabinmate should give the bathroom a quick clean after they use it. If your toothpaste spit falls on the countertop -- wipe it up. If you plug up the toilet -- unplug it and don't wait for someone else to deal with the problem. Water all over the floor after your shower -- wipe it up so another cabin mate doesn't slip. Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

Dear Suzy Q,

I'm a LOTW rookie and am really excited about this year's annual trip. I'm wondering what I can do to ensure I have a great experience with my captains. Rookie

Dear Rookie,

The key to success is to help your captain focus on boat control. Remove such distractions and you'll greatly increase your odds of catching fish as a Little Buddy (fishing from the back of the boat). Get off to a good start by being on time at the dock. Bring your own towel to wipe off the seats, windshield and console of dew. Bring some snacks to share and some extra coffee should your captain be distracted by a grumbling tummy. Have your map ready with some thoughts about where to go. Keep track of where you're going and constantly be looking for great spots to fish. Always allow your captain the first cast. If you're captain's reel becomes fouled up, quickly suggest that you take over the trolling motor while he fixes his reel. In a nutshell -- be a team player.

Waterdogs 2005 Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars and Let's Go!

| Date | Species | Location | Dogs in Charge |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ April 16 | Trout | Root River | Mueller – Keller |
| ✓ April 30 | Crappie | Prior Lake | Dupont – Karsjens |
| ✓ June 4-5 | Walleye | St Louis River | Hennessey – Miller |
| ✓ June 24 | 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 FANTASY FISHING LEAGUE UPDATE

The fantasy league is to the mid-year point and the standings are as follows:

- 1) Mamas Boy 58 points, 2) Old Fart 47 points 3) Griz 45 points 5) Farm Boy 37 points 6) Little Angel 34 points 7) Juan Valdez 31 points 8) Janitor and Suzy 21 points.

During the Lake of the Woods trip points will be awarded for 1 point for each musky caught and 10 points for are large fish pool winners in each spices. A lot of ground can be made up, so no one is out of the running yet if you pick a fisherman who ends up having a decent week in putting fish in his boat. You can choose a fisherman from any of the guys (Dogs or guests) that are going on the annual trip, as long as you haven't picked them as a starter in previous tournaments. I'll try to collect your picks at the July meeting.

Good Luck
MamasBoy