

The Dogumentary

24th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2006

July 2006 Meeting

The July Meeting will be held at **Thorne Brothers** in Fridley at 7500 University Ave. on Thursday, July 6. The meeting will start with pizza dinner at 6:00, and a special opportunity for club members to buy anything they need at Thorne's at a 10% discount. At 7:00 pm, Thorne's will provide a speaker to talk about muskies at Lake of the Woods. The annual trip book will be passed out to all members, and will include all the important information that you will need to make the trip a big success. All club members and Guests on the trip are invited to the July meeting.

President's Corner: Steve Haagenson



The Bible tells the story of Samson, a man of unbelievable strength, whose strength remained as long as no razor touched his head. After telling Delilah his secret, she had his head shaved and he lost all of his power. This gets me to thinking, "Is the secret of Griz's success in the beard?" It has been an amazing run for our bearded outdoorsman. After consecutive series wins, he took second in the trout tournament this year and has won every tournament since. I'm looking forward to hearing his winner presentations at the next meeting. There a few things that stand out for me about Griz (besides the beard). The first is his ability to adapt. It seems that whatever he does, he learns something. Then he modifies and adapts until he hones the right technique for maximum results. After hearing that he and Felix were out of the scoring for Friday, I thought my fantasy pick was doomed. But, taking what they learned on Friday, the team scored big on Saturday to again take the win.

The second thing that impresses me is his ability to work as a team. When I have fished with Griz, he has been more than willing to

Waterdogs Calendar

July 6	Monthly Meeting
July 22-29	Rock'N Roll Musky Tour
August 3	Monthly Meeting
August 19	Multispecies Tournament
Sep 7	Monthly Meeting
Sep 9	Musky-Pike Tournament
Oct 5	Monthly Meeting
Oct 14	Smallmouth Tournament
Nov 2	2006 Banquet

Days to Lake of the Woods

22!!

What to do now:

- Fix all rods, reels, and lures!
- Start packing!
- Take your lures to bed with you and talk strategy with them.

share his knowledge and skill to help me be a better fisherman. I think that also helps him in that he also gathers information from my fishing to help him adapt for the biggest catches. The better fisherman he helps me be, the better information he will get from my efforts. Of course, if you look at his partners this year, I don't think he has had to do much teaching, but I would bet my last dollar that he has learned something from each of them that will make him that much harder to beat in the future.

Finally, the third thing that I have noticed about Griz comes from the columns that he has submitted to the Dogumentary. He practices, practices, practices. He almost always has an excursion or two in between our outings. Now that I have my own vessel, I'm trying to get out much more and I think it's making a difference.

I guess there is one more thing that is impressive about Griz and that is his willingness to share this with all of us. Rather than withhold information about his techniques and his spots just so he can win, he shares that information freely and then just fishes all the better to take the win. That's class.

We're watching you, Griz. We're learning and we're becoming better fishermen and club members. Keep up the good work. And don't shave the beard.

Now we shift from the past to the future. As I write this my phone countdown says 23 days, 11 hours and 24 minutes to LOTW. And wow! 26 dogs going on the trip. That's a new record. When I first joined the club, I was unable to go for a number of years for family and/or financial reasons so I have never expected we would ever have participation this high. With everyone coming to share pictures and stories at the August meeting, maybe we'll have that 100% meeting attendance yet.

Friday my cabin mates and I are meeting to plan our food needs and/or desires. My Remote Border Crossing Permit is in my Muskie box (otherwise I would forget it at home) and my Canadian License just arrived by mail (is that the best government service you have seen, or what?). I need to adjust my rock flaps to better protect my boat and then I guess all there is to do then is wait. NO. We can practice, practice, practice.

See you at the meeting...and on the water.

Farm Buoy

P.S. I think I have sensed some results from my new name spelling so this month I am kicking it up a notch. Going forward I shall be using Pharm Buoy in my ongoing search for happiness. The debut fresh spelling of the month goes to Grizlie Atoms. (sounds like a punk rock band or a rapper.) pb

Team Janitor & Griz Trawl Up the Win at Gull Lake

A most unusual bout of near-perfect weather welcomed the club at the third tournament of the year for walleyes at Gull Lake. The tournament was a bit different than usual in that it began at 2:00 pm on Saturday, to allow for some members to drive up from the cities in the morning, and also to take advantage of the evening bite until 9:00 pm. The next day started at sunrise and went until just after noon to get in on the morning bite.

In all, 18 Dogs fished the event, making up 9 teams. Each team was allowed one 6-fish limit for each day of fishing. Although the fishing was 'OK' by club standards, there was only one six-fish limit turned in for the two days of fishing, and that was on day two, when The Janitor and Griz culled down to a 6-fish limit and the overall win. The boys also caught a 5-fish string on day one, for a total string weighing 18 pounds, or nearly 10 pounds ahead of second place. In fact, they caught 11 keeper fish out of the 33 that were caught by all 9 teams during the tournament. The winners got their fish primarily by trolling shallow-running crankbaits over the 5-10 foot weedline break in a couple of main areas. More about their strategy and technique will be presented at an upcoming meeting.



Trawling was the Top Strategy

Big fish honors went to Buick, who caught a 21" walleye on day two, as he and Kevin Miller went on to take second place with a 5-fish day on Sunday, following a zero score on Saturday.



Buick Releases a Nice 'Eater'

In third place was the team of Farm Boy and Chips, with The Perp and Nasty came in fourth, and Fishdique and Helen took fifth. Sixth place was a one-fish string for Chainsaw and Dr Meat, which illustrates the lack of depth in the number of fish caught.



Dr Meat prefers Prime Rib over Walleye

Some club members enjoyed the hospitality of Tom Keller's cabin on Whitefish Lake for Friday or Saturday night, and Fish-something was treated to a 30+ bass morning with Helen on Whitefish Lake before the walleye tournament began on Gull.



Uncle Tom's Cabin

All told, it was a decent walleye tournament, but quite short of last year's St. Louis River results. It was an interesting strategy session, though, with ideas to consider for future walleye tournaments.

Waterdogs Blow the Doors Off at Carver County Bass Shootout

On June 16 and 17, the club descended on the waters bordering highway 5 in Carver County for what turned out to be one of the best tournaments ever, both in terms of numbers of guys who fished, and the number of fish that were caught. In all, 26 club members fished the event, with the poundages being calculated using separate limits for each day of the tournament, similar to the walleye tournament

two weeks earlier. There were 13 teams that fished each day, which made 26 total possible 10-fish limits for the event. Of the 26 possible limits, 16 were filled, with 5 teams getting 10-fish limits on both days.



Zumbra Keeper

And the fish were big, too, with 5 fish caught that were 20" or larger, including a few personal bests. To put it in another perspective, there were 33 walleyes on the cards at the Gull Lake tournament, and 227 largemouth weighed in at the bass tournament, not counting culled fish. The top 6 teams caught their bass from 4 different lakes, with the smaller bodies of water putting out more and bigger fish than the bigger lakes.



Fluffed Up from Lake Auburn

At the end, the weight totals were close, with first and third place being separated by less than a pound. The winning team was Felix and Griz, who caught a light limit on Waconia on day one, but then went on to catch the biggest 10-fish limit of the tournament on Auburn Lake on Sunday. Their Auburn stringer included a 21" and two 19" bass, mostly caught on unweighted Senkos, as Griz explains in his Dogumentary column this

month. The win was Griz's third tournament win of the year, and along with his second-place finish at the trout tournament, puts him far out in front for the yearly standings.



The Bass Masters

In second place was the team of Rocky and Bertha, who fished Lotus Lake for the two days, for good limits on both days, topped by a 20" piglet. Apparently, the boat was being guided by Father Bertha and his Best Buddy to the good spots on this green lake.



20" Rocky Bass

In third was the team of Fish-something and Kojak, who fished Steiger Lake both days and

caught 2 limits of fish on a variety of lures, but especially plastic worms up shallow. Their largest was a 20.5" caught near the public fishing pier by the access.



20.5" Personal Best

In fourth place were The Janitor and Banana Boy (Branden Happel), who's banana scent in the boat did not prevent them from taking a 19-fish string from 2 days on Steiger Lake.



Zumbra Lake 18"

In fifth place was the team of Buick and Suzy, who fished Waconia and caught plenty of good fish on the second day, but only 4 on the first day. Most of their fish came from the reeds along the north shore of the lake. Their bag was topped by a 21" fish caught by Buick.



21 Is a Winning Hand

In sixth place was the team of Nasty Boy and Carmen, who caught the lightest limit of the tournament with 10 fish from Waconia on the first day, for only 11.25 pounds. They made up for that day with a 10 fish weight of 18.48 pounds on Sunday from Steiger Lake. Their second-day limit was capped by a 20.5" fish.



More Great Action for Little Angel

All told, it was a great tournament, an easy drive and a good venue with the two-day multiple-lake event, that just may bear repeating.

Senko Bassin'

By James "Griz" Ferstenou

Over the past five or six years Senkos have become a real confidence lure for me when it comes to fishing for both largemouth and smallmouth bass. The more I use them, the more I like them. Simply put, they are proving to be one of the most effective bass catching lures that I've ever fished, especially when it comes to the category of plastics. I've fished with some of the imitation Senkos over the years, and they do work, but I keep coming back to the original Yamamoto Senko. They are not quite as durable as some of the imitation brands due to their high salt content (they are more or less a one or two fish lure), but they do seem to produce a few more bites throughout the day. Many sizes and colors of Senkos are available including 3", 4", 5" and 7" sizes and colors ranging from naturals, like smoke and cinnamon, to bright, like bubble gum, pink and white.

Senkos can be fished many ways, including: Texas rigged, split shot rigged, Carolina rigged, drop shot rigged and mojo rigged, just to name a few. In fact, I'll often have two or three rods rigged differently with Senkos for a day of bass fishing. One of my favorite (and one of the most productive) ways that I've found to fish them is to rig them is weightless. For this technique I prefer to use a 7' spinning rod (medium weight if fishing sparse cover and medium heavy weight if fishing heavy cover) with a highly visible line. I prefer to use 30-lb. test (8-lb. diameter) yellow Power Pro line due to its high visibility and no stretch properties. You can always count on a good hookset and when fishing in heavy cover you can get the fish moving your direction on the hookset, which increases your odds of landing the fish versus losing it to the cover during the battle. The yellow color does not seem to spook fish in most situations (especially if you are fishing in heavy cover), but if I'm fishing sparse cover in clear water (especially for smallmouth) I'll switch to 8 lb. Vanish Transition or Trilene Solar XT. Being able to see your line is critical in detecting subtle bites on a slack line. I will use various sizes and colors of Senkos and hooks for this technique, but I most often use a 4" Senko and a 3/0, red, wide gap Gamakatsu worm hook. I'll tie the hook on using a palomar knot and rig the Senko Tex-opposed. A Tex-opposed rigging is similar to a Texas rig

hooking method, but run the hook all the way through the Senko and then bury just the point of the hook into the lure on the top side to make it weedless versus simply burying the point of the hook into the bottom side of the Senko without running it completely through. This style of rigging will allow your Senko to be presented without a bend in its body, making it appear to be more natural and helping to prevent line twist. When fishing in sparse cover you can also wacky rig a weightless Senko for good results.

While I have had many different colors work for me over the years depending on water clarity, light penetration, etc., my two favorites are smoke with black flake and cinnamon with no flake, especially when fishing in clear water situations. Pearl (white) with no flake is also a great color to use in the Spring when fishing bass on the beds. Other colors will catch fish during this period as well, but you can see the pearl colored Senko better in the water and make sure that it is positioned where you want it in relation to the fish and the spawning bed. You can also see when the fish inhales the lure and set the hook (often you won't feel the bite if they are just moving the lure off of the bed since the spit it out quickly).

I prefer to fish with the weightless Senko whenever possible, but it will be the most productive on days when (or fished in areas where) there is no wind or a light wind and when fish are in a neutral to negative mood. This is primarily a shallow water technique (6 feet deep or less) since the lure sinks slowly. If I need to go deeper, I'll switch to a Carolina rigged Senko. To be the most effective the weightless Senko needs to fall slowly, naturally, and preferably straight down. If the wind is catching your line and blowing the Senko sideways, it will be much less productive and you may want to try a different technique such as Texas rigging a Senko. You will need to fish slowly with this technique, so if fish are aggressive, you may be better off covering more water with another angling method and coming back to this technique once the bite slows down or to fish a productive area for a second or third time.

Cast out into the cover and let the lure sink on a slack line, but watch your line for a strike. The lure will sink slowly, so this technique will take some getting used to. In my experience,

you can't let the lure sink or sit for too long, but you can easily fish it to fast. Twitch or jig your rod tip to impart a gliding action to the Senko and then pause and let it sink again. Repeat this action two or three times or until your lure is out of the cover and make another cast. Most of the strikes that you get will be while the lure is falling and either on the initial drop or within the first two jigging motions. After that I'll often reel my lure in and make another cast unless the lure is still in a productive area. Depending upon the time of the year, areas to try this technique include: over the tops of submerged weeds, lily pads, docks, rip rap, timber and weed edges. Casting into pockets in the lily pads is one of my personal favorites.



21" Senko Bass from Auburn Lake

If you have not already tried fishing bass with Senkos, especially rigged weightless, give it a try. You may be pleasantly surprised with the results. Hopefully using the methods described in the article above you can put a few extra bass in your boat this season.

Bavaria Bass???

By Mama's Boy

On Saturday June 10th I had an opportunity to do a little pre-fishing for the Carver County bass tournament. I met up with Kirk 'Bubble Boy' Duholm my partner for the tourney, at 5:00AM at Cabin Fever to make a decision on what lake to fish that morning. Felix had decided to join us as well, so the three of us visited the bait shop owner and got some information. We had originally thought of going to Waconia, but it was already pretty windy that morning, so we decided to hit a smaller lake. After our discussion with the bait shop owner, we decided on Zumbra.

We started working the weed lines with spinners or Kirk's favorite lure, the Johnson silver spoon to see if we could find any active fish. We had a cold front condition that came through late in the week dropping the air temp from the 90's to the 50's, so we tried to cover some water. We stayed out of the wind for the first few hours and only saw a few fish. We then decided to fish a bay with the wind blowing into it that had a deep 22 foot hole surrounded by shallower water. Felix ended up pulling a nice 17" fish in on a spinnerbait. I decided to mix it up a bit and went to a Senko 4" pumpkinseed/green flake worm, rigged Texas style. A few casts later I hooked into a fish that right away started taking my drag out like a pike. It took a few minutes to get it to the boat to realize I had a nice bass, and after a few scoops with the net, it was landed. We measured it at 21.5" and I had a scale which weighed it out at 5lb 12oz. The tail of the fish was all torn up from spawning which we figured could have made 22" if healthy. The fish was my new personal best largemouth. I managed to catch another 17" bass in the same area about five minutes later.



Mama's Boy and Fat Boy

I had a few graduation parties to attend to the rest of the day, one of which was for Laun's daughter. Kirk and Felix dropped me back at the ramp about 10:00 so I could get to Laun's house. Both guys said, "remember we were on Bavaria!" So remember, never believe what you might hear from a Dog before a tournament.

Mamas Boy

Road Trip: Shopping for Fishing Lures in Europe

By Suzy

So last week, Rebekah and I traveled to Europe on a company-paid, group vacation trip. We arrived in Budapest and then took a cruise along the Danube River, stopping in Bratislava, Slovakia, and Vienna, from which we flew back home. By the way, this was my first trip to Europe.

On the second day of our trip, Rebekah wanted to find a book store so we could purchase a book or two of Hungarian folk tales, in English, for our girls. We asked the young

man who gave us a guided trip earlier in the day for a recommendation.

Then I shot the guide a curve ball of a question: Could he help us find a fishing tackle store? He said he wasn't aware of anyone who goes fishing and said if there was a Angle Sport shop it would most likely be in one of the city's suburbs and not within walking distance. Oh well.

So, Rebekah and I head out from our hotel to do some more sightseeing and to find the book store. As we're walking down this little side street, I spy a sign with the word "Sport" on it. So we walk across the street to check it out.

We walk in. The shop is maybe 10 ft. by 14 ft. big. A little old man is sitting behind the counter. The walls are sparsely covered with fishing tackle, new and used reels, rods, and old mounted fish heads.

The first thing I say is, "Rapala?" The old man lights up: "Oh yes, Rapala, Rapala!" and points to his glass counter. In the case are a dozen or so new and used Rapala lures -- Originals, Husky Jerks, Skitter Walks, Jointed Shad Raps, etc. The man doesn't speak English, we learn, but he does speak German. So, in my broken German, which I haven't uttered since my freshman year in college, I ask him his name, which is Stefan, and I communicate that I used to do work for Rapala. Again, he lights up and says Rapala lures are "sehr gut!" I purchased a Skitter Walk for about \$6 U.S.



Duper does 'European Vacation'
(While the shop owner calls the police)

In Bratislava, we found a fishing department at the Tesco department store. The store, which was like a Target, had equipment primarily for

carp fishing (many bobbers), and a few crankbaits for northern pike.

In Vienna, we ask our guide there about a fishing store in the downtown area, and she managed, after a couple phone calls, to find a store not too far from our hotel. We stopped there, and found a much wide selection of rods, reels and lures. I purchased a Rapala Squid lure (used for catching squid and octopus) as well as one of the most beautiful lures I have ever seen, a Balzer Colonel 3D northern pike replica (20cm) lure.

Crystal Marine Emergency Service

By Buick

I had a very positive experience with Crystal Marine last Friday after the first day of the tournament I wanted to share with you. After leaving Floyd's I drove over and decided to check out Auburn as a potential spot for the next morning. I launch my boat and motored halfway around the lake when my motor died. I tried squeezing the bulb to no avail. I know both tanks were full so something else was wrong. I used my trolling motor to get me back to the landing. It was around 3:45 PM when I headed up to Crystal. I called and talked to Steve their service manager. I explained my problem and told him I had a tournament the next morning so I needed to get it fixed. I got there around 4:30 and as I was up front getting checked in, Steve had Roid out back looking at my motor. By the time I got back there, Roid had replaced the fuel line bulb and was checking the fuel injector pressure. He worked on it for around 45 minutes. When I asked Steve what I owed him, Steve said, the bulb was a stock item so I didn't own them anything. Saturday morning, my motor was purring again!

Talk about service! I show up on a sweltering Friday at 4:30 PM and have my boat fixed in less than an hour - didn't get charged! I know some of you have not had good experiences with Crystal but I think that they are trying hard to win back your business. I'm sold.

Rod and Reel Repair Tip

By Carmen

One Day 2 of the Carver County Bass tournament, I had one of my baitcasters

breaking line. The ceramic guide in the tip had broken. Last week I dropped off my musky reels at Robert Haik's for some pre-trip maintenance. He had all three done the next day. When I picked them up, Robert mentioned he now does rod repair so I dropped off the rod that needed a new tip. Just want to remind my fellow Dogs to inspect their equipment before the trip. He works out of his home in Richfield and his hours are 5-9:00 PM Monday-Thursday.

Robert Haik
1128 East 67th Street
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-2890

Lake of Woods Update

By Suzy

We're just days from our 20th annual Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour. At this point, "anticipation" is understating the excitement that most of us are experiencing.... Here's a quick update about the trip. Watch for more e-mail updates as the blast-off date approaches.

At the July meeting, which will take place at Thorne Brothers, all trip participants will receive their "goodie bag." The bags will include your t-shirt/baseball cap, if you ordered these items, your trip booklet, the road trip music CD, and other assorted goodies. The t-shirts cost \$20 each and baseball caps \$15. As I will not be at the meeting (Nasty and Carmen have agreed to run it), please pay Old Fart for your t-shirts and caps (make checks out to "Waterdogs").

Believe it or not: the Fishing Pairings in the booklet is already out of date. Jeff Kapp, a now former friend of Fluffy's, dropped out of the trip after the booklets were printed. Because there may be other changes between now and the trip, I am going to hold off from sending everyone the final pairings until the week before the trip.

We also have a cabin change, too. Angle Outpost has switched out the guys in the Old Guys cabin to two other cabins because of another party. So now, we'll have in cabin #3, the Frat Rats (Chips, Fishdick and Janitor), and in #2, the Andersons + OJ.

I spoke with Angle Outpost a few days ago. They've had a relatively dry, warm summer so far. The lake is down a foot, but if they receive some heavy rains, the lake level can adjust rather quickly. AO also said they dredged the boat landing/docking area, and they've added WiFi capability, which is available just up by

the lodge (for those who need to bring their Blackberries and Trios).

If you haven't met as a cabin to plan your food and other items that you'll bring, please do so within the next week.

Waterdogs 2006 Tournament Series

Mark Your Calendars Now and Plan to Attend!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
✓ March 18	Trout	Whitewater River	Mueller - Johnson
✓ April 29	Crappie	Chisago Lakes area	Lantto
✓ June 3-4	Walleye	Gull Lake	Mueller – Johnson
✓ June 16-17	Bass	Carver County Lakes area	Blakely – Dupont
Aug 19 (Sat)	Multi	Lake Wissota, WI	Ferstenou
Sep 9 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Minnetonka	Blakely – Karsjens
Oct 14 (Sat)	Smallmouth	Rum River - Anoka	Karsjens - Dupont

In case you missed this in Outdoor News:

KICKIN' MINNOW PERCH

STORM **GANDER.MTN.**

MUSKY MASTERS
PHOTO CONTEST

This could be you!
Submit a photo of your catch to your local participating Gander Mountain store.

Usually catching a Musky is rewarding enough, but Storm & Gander Mountain made it even better. By submitting your photo, you could win a fully-loaded Storm Musky Tackle Pack and a \$100 Gift Certificate from Gander Mountain, the best place to find your fishing tackle.

Duper could be You!

And more important Waterdog family news:

Ointment with amusement

Boudreaux's Butt Paste acquired by Indiana company

BY DANIEL LEE
The Indianapolis Star

It's a product with a name that gets people talking.

And that's how George Boudreaux likes it. He is a pharmacist who began concocting a diaper-rash ointment in his family pharmacy in Louisiana decades ago.

The product's name (cue snicker): Boudreaux's Butt Paste.

Boudreaux loves to tell of the many parents who have called or written to thank him after Butt Paste helped heal a baby's sore bottom. He recalls the time he appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to talk about Butt Paste and how the exposure helped his small Cajun business quadruple sales.

And now he tells the story about how the product came to be made in Indiana, after Blairex Laboratories, a Columbus, Ind., manufacturer and marketer of over-the-counter health products, last month completed its acquisition of Boudreaux's Butt Paste for an undisclosed price.

Under the deal, Boudreaux will remain in his native Covington, La., where he will focus on marketing and help develop new products based on Butt Paste. Blairex will focus on the manufacturing and distribution.

THE BOTTOM LINE

PURPOSE:

Diaper rash relief.

COST: \$8.99 for a

4-ounce tube, compared with \$3.14 for Desitin.

INGREDIENTS:

Zinc oxide (same as most other brands), Peruvian balsam.

APPEAL: The name. And appearances on Oprah and other shows.

OTHER USES: ESPN reported that the Louisiana State football team uses the cream to relieve chafing.



The deal came together in an unexpected way. Days before the scheduled meeting in New Orleans between the two companies, Hurricane Katrina hit. A 14-foot tidal surge damaged the area around the Louisiana plant where Boudreaux's Butt Paste was made. George Boudreaux and Blairex President Anthony Moravec started planning emergency production at Blairex's Indiana plant.

Explains why Shorty has been so busy!