

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2007

July Meeting

The July meeting will be held at Thorne Brothers tackle store at 7500 University Ave. (Hwy 47) in Fridley. The meeting starts at 6pm with pizza brought in, and will be followed by a meeting that focuses on the upcoming Rock and Roll Musky Tour, with a speaker from Thorne Brothers on the state of the fishing on the angle this year. There will also be plenty of time to browse and buy all that gear you will need for the trip.

The 2007 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

July 12	Meeting – Thorne Bros
July 21-28	LOTW Rock&Roll Musky Tour
August 2	Monthly Meeting
August 18	Multi-Species Tournament
Sep 6	25th Anniversary Party
Sep 15	Musky/NP Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Nov 1	Annual Banquet
Dec 6	Monthly Meeting

The tournament details are on the last page of each Dogumentary.



Upcoming meeting seminars include the following:

August: Tackle Terry Tuma

Sep: Farm Boy hosts the Waterdogs 25th Anniversary party

October: open – working with Schara

President's Corner – James Ferstenou



July is upon us and that can only mean one thing. The Waterdogs annual Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour at the Lake of the Woods can't be that far away. I'm really looking forward to it (as usual) as I'm sure most of you are. Hopefully you've already taken care of getting your Remote Area Border Crossing Permit and Ontario fishing license. Now is the time to start preparing your equipment for the trip if you haven't done so already. Check your rods for broken tips and guides, spool up with new line, oil up your reels, organize your tackle box, sharpen your hooks and prepare your boat, trailer and vehicle for the journey ahead. It also doesn't hurt to get out on the water between now and the trip for a few hours musky fishing if you have the opportunity in order to get all of the right muscles back in

shape before the trip. I'm planning to do some musky fishing with a friend of mine near my parent's cabin between the evening of 7/3 and the afternoon of 7/6. I follow up with a report via e-mail if we end up having any luck over those days.

Another tournament is now in the books as well. The Carver County Shootout bass tournament proved to be a success for the second year in a row. Numerous "counter" fish were caught and several really nice 20" or larger largemouth bass were boated. Congratulations to the Bob team (Dickey and Leibrock) on their win. I look forward to hearing about their winning strategy at an upcoming meeting. The overall standings for the year are tighter than ever with two anglers tied for first and two more within 3 points. The last two tournaments of the year should prove to be interesting. At this point there are still many contenders for the top three overall positions, not to mention for the "Angler of the Year". Will someone be able to dethrone Nasty and interrupt his three-year reign at the top? Time will tell, but it's definitely close to call at this point.

Planning for the Waterdogs 25th anniversary celebration continues. We are still working to contact as many former 'Dogs as possible. Whatever help that you may be able to provide in doing so is greatly appreciated. Farmboy, Perp and I are members of a subcommittee of the 25th anniversary committee in charge of trying to locate as many former members as possible. If you have any information that may aid us in our search, please let us know. The search so far has been a little hit and miss, but we've had many successes. We'll see what kind of turnout we end up with, but so far the reaction of those that we have contacted has been positive. Some former members as far away as Florida have expressed interest in coming back to help us celebrate. Another committee meeting and board meeting will be planned in the near future to finalize plans and approve the final budget for the event.

It's also been great to get some help from Ron Schara in recognizing this occasion. Ron recently published an article in the Sunday edition of the Star Tribune about the club's 25th anniversary and has also taped an interview with Farmboy to be aired on WCCO radio in

the near future. Thanks Farmboy for filling in for me since I wasn't available at the time that Ron had available.

This is a big event for our club and deserves to be celebrated accordingly. We would like to fund as much of the event as possible through our existing club funds and keep the cost to current and former members attending the event to a minimum. With that said, if anyone would like to donate anything (money, food, beverages, etc.) to the event to help offset the expenses, it would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to do so, please contact Farmboy, Old Fart and I and let us know what you'd like to do. Thanks in advance for any contributions that you'd like to make.

On a donation related matter (not to sound like a politician continually asking for more money/donations), we are still planning to present at tree and a corresponding plaque to Dave and Jessica Fandrich this year at the Angle Outpost as a living memorial to their daughter, Joy Fandrich. If you'd like to donate to this cause, please contact Farmboy, Old Fart or me and let us know of your wishes.

That's all for now. Until next month, keep your lures in the water and your hooks sharp.

Griz

'Bobs Against the World' Triumph at Carver County

Another top-notch tournament took place on the Carver County bass lakes as 22 Waterdogs took a Friday off from work to fish in the two-day event on June 15 and 16. There were 193 'keeper' bass caught out of a possible 220, which came from 17 of a possible 22 10-fish limits for the two days. Two-day limits of 10 fish each day extended to the eighth-place team in the event. In this year's event, the teams were required to fish at least 4 hours on a second lake in the area. The weather was close to perfect, with light winds making boat control easy on the tournament days.

The winning team was Fishdick and Rocky, who fished all day on Lotus Lake on day 1, and all day on Steiger Lake on day 2. The winning weight was 56.7 pounds, or almost a 3-pound

average per fish. They caught most of their fish on weightless Senkos under the docks at Lotus, and most of the day 2 fish on the inside weedline at Steiger, also on Senkos.



What's Up, Dock?

The big fish of the tournament was a 21.5" caught by Fishdick under a floating swim platform right across the little bay from Bertha's brother's place. The good timing of the big fish was also a personal best for Fishdick. Rumor has it that Bertha caught the same fish in the same area two weeks after the tournament. The winning team also got a 20 on a spinnerbait in Steiger with less than an hour to go on day 2. Their two-day, 20-fish total weight was 56.7 pounds, for about a 3 lb. average, which is just over a 16.5" average length. More details of the winning strategy will be shared at the August meeting.



This Little Piggy Likes the Swimming Beach

In total, five fish of 20" or better were caught by the club, 4 from Lotus, and 1 in Steiger. In second place was the team of Felix and Father Bertha, included a 20" from Lotus.



Fr Bertha Can Relate to Five Pounders

In third was The Perp and Griz, who fished Auburn with little success, before switching over to Lotus.

In fourth was Nasty and Rick Wagner, and in fifth was Shatner and Greenstick. Sixth went to OF and Juan, who also picked up a 20 in Lotus.



Juan Brews up a 20 on a Senko

One other 20" was caught by Farm Boy in Lotus, as well.

This was the second time that the club has fished the Carver County lakes for our bass tournament, which has turned out to be one of the best sites for the species in club history. We look forward to a possible 3-peat in the future.

Club Fishing Reports

Carver County Keeps Going and Going

Several Waterdogs have continued to fish for bass on the Carver County lakes, with some continued impressive catches. Those darn fish still haven't learned their lesson! Several other 20's have been caught by Shatner, OF, Felix, Bertha, and Fishdick, with most coming from Lotus, as you would expect, along with a 21.25 from Long Lake. A few personal bests have also been caught, and a 50-fish day was also had by OF and FD on Lotus.



Shatner Beams up a 21.25

Chainsaw Revisits Sabaskong

Last week my wife and I and another couple went up to Red Wing Lodge for a week. The other couple had never experienced a lake cabin vacation and had never fished, either. Highlights of trip; got 5 inches of rain mostly at night, lake rose 5 inches during the week and expected to raise another 4 inches this week. The lake is now back to normal levels but the weed growth is not good due to the sudden rise in water level. Mike said they have been averaging about 2-3 inches a week with a few 5 inch weeks in there for the past 6 weeks or so. The water is pretty dirty due to all the rain, so we went to Obabikon Lake where the water was very clear and we could not keep the northern pike off the lures. My friend caught his first musky a 30 incher and our wives were in the boat too, so that made my

trip. I raised one nice musky during the week. Waldron Island took a direct hit 5 years ago by a tornado and the eagles now have moved in along the short cut to go east. We caught plenty of northerns and walleyes for dinner, and had a couple of very windy days during the week. I talked to 4 guys that were fishing muskies hard. They had raised 2 over 50 inches, and several others, but none in the boat yet. It was a very nice trip.

Jerry.

Greenstick reports...

I'm baaaaack. Not 100% yet, but after recuperating from the strenuous Carver County Team Bass event, I finally got my boat in the water on June 30th. Caught a bunch of medium-sized bass at Minnetonka, and while I was reeling in about a 1-1/2 pounder, another bass hit the line and took it deep. After wrestling with it to the surface and almost within net range, it turned out to be a *really big* monster bass, it went deep again and later spit the smaller fish out; what I finally reeled in wasn't pretty. So whoever said there aren't any big bass in 'Tonka is goofy -- there's a really large, trophy bass out there somewhere around Gale Island in Lake Minnetonka that's still avoiding capture... I'm looking forward to a successful remainder of the 2007 Waterdog season and I thank all Dogs for being so supportive while I've been on the mend.

Nasty Jr. Scores at Rush Lake

The Nasty family recently returned from our annual trip to Rush Lake Resort near Perham Minnesota. When we arrived temperatures were in the upper 80s with 20 - 25 mph winds. In talking with local fisherman, they indicated that the big crappies just started to bite. That wind is sure hard on equipment! After two days of wind, temperatures fell to the upper 50s and low 60s. The week rounded out with several perfect days. No rain though, and sunny every day.

The big crappies did start to bite with an average size of 1.5 pounds with several two pounders caught. I caught 45 of those big guys for the week and we kept 5 possession limits. Huge bluegills were also to be found. We kept 100 of these (5 possession limits). Yes, we did

have enough licenses (kids don't need them). We probably caught 150 of the big bluegills.

This was the first year my kids actually fished. In the past they just wanted to toss the rods in the lake and play with the minnows. Luckily on our first outing and within seconds, Maddie caught a big bluegill. We ended up with 23 of the big ones in about an hour's time. Alex begged to go out that evening with my father-in-law and I. We decided he could go since it was pretty calm. I hooked up a crappie minnow on a bare hook and tossed it out. I turned to rig my rod when Alex announced he had one. We laughed and thought he was joking since his bait didn't have time to go down. Without help Alex started reeling and caught a northern that was 2/3 of his height. You can imagine his excitement! Turns out that was the only fish we caught which just made it all the better for Alex since he caught more than I did. He spent that evening and the next day crowing about that catch and the fact that I didn't catch any.

The next day we were back to the big bluegills, we kept 30 and caught at least that many more. Alex kept catching rock bass, so I gave him the handle of "king of rockies". He didn't like it much so it stuck. That evening the wind kicked up. Little Al wanted to go fishing with us but we decided it was too rough. He had the same reaction that Bob Dickey has when he is not allowed to fish. He stood in the window watching us leave...crying.

All in all, a great vacation. I think Alex has the bug. The little guy can sure catch 'em.

Helen and Juan Go Pro

Helen and Juan have been fishing in the General Mills tournament series this summer. On June 5th, the tournament was on Minnetonka for bass. Tournament rules are four hours of fishing any time during the tournament day. It's catch and release with a 6 fish total. Helen's wife was originally going to fish with him, but had to cancel with sick kids. He called me a couple of hours before the deadline to see if I could fish. He said he had enough equipment for both of us, as I didn't even have time to go home to pick up any gear. We started in Maxwell Bay and caught a couple of small bass around the docks near Seton Channel. Between no wake zones and

sporadic fishing it took us a couple of hours to get to Helen's Honey Hole in the area of Howard's Point. We were fishing a mixture of milfoil and lily pads, using mostly unweighted plastics. It was pretty slow going for the first 45 minutes. In the next hour, though we caught a 6 fish stringer of bass that weighed in at over 19 lbs, the biggest a 21 1/2" by Helen.

Chapter 2: General Mills also has a company wide Bass Tournament which took place on June 29th. There were ten boats participating with a \$200 prize for 1st place. Our first plan, of course, was to return to the spot where we had caught the 19+ pounds of bass 3 weeks earlier. To our dismay, as we neared the spot there were 2 milfoil harvesters ripping the guts out of our Honey Hole. On our way over we had noted an area that we'd both thought looked decent. (We had seen both a decent sized bass and a mid-forties muskie on the sand bottom) We never had a big flurry like we'd had the tournament before, but consistently kept catching fish all afternoon. (The tournament was from 1:30-7:30) By about 3:30 we had a full card with 12" being our smallest. We culled a few and by tournament end had 6 fish with 14" being the smallest. Most of the fish were taken on unweighted worms, but we did throw some scum frogs for part of the afternoon, but didn't catch anything large on them. Tournament rules were that we had to keep all of our fish in the livewell for the weigh-in at the end of the tournament. (We both agreed that's a terrible way to do it.) We had one 17" fish that was still alive for the weigh-in, but not long for the world, that Helen took home to clean. Given the hours in the livewell, and the handling you had to do to cull the small ones, it's really hard on the fish. At the weigh-in we were supposed to weigh our largest fish as there was a big fish prize of \$25 dollars. We were anxious to get our fish back in the water after the long afternoon in the livewell, and dumped them in the lake after the weigh-in, but forgot to weigh our largest. Helen released a 19 1/2", and then the fish that won the big fish was an 18" largemouth that weighed 3.4 pounds. Our total for the day, though, was 15 lbs., which bested the next best weight by almost a pound. We each got a \$100 gift certificate to Dicks, so I guess we can call ourselves pros now, right?

Waterdogs Fishing Club 2007 Tournament Schedule

Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
✓March 17	Trout	Kinni, Rush, etc – WI	Janitor, OF
✓May 5	Crappie	Minnetonka	Perp, Mamas Boy, OJ
✓June 2-3	Walleye	St Louis River	Griz, Nasty, Chips
✓June 15-16	Bass	Carver Co Lakes	Banana, Carmen, Felix
August 18	Multispecie	Pepin – Miss. Pool 4	Bubble, Bertha, Bud
September 15	Musky/NP	Waconia + others	Suzy, Rocky, Buick