

The Dogumentary

28th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2010

July Meeting

The July 8 meeting will be our traditional pre-LOTW meeting at Thorne Brothers, which is now at a new location in Blaine at 10091 Central Ave NE (Hwy 65), north of highway 610 near the National Sports Center. The meeting will start at 6pm with pizza and pop and be followed by a speaker or two on fishing the Angle. Rumor has it that one of the topics will be fishing for muskies with flies and mosquitoes.

2010 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

July 8	Monthly Meeting
July 24-31	Rock n Roll Musky Tour
Aug 5	Monthly Meeting
Aug 28	Multispecies Tournament
Sep 2	Monthly Meeting
Sep 18	Multispecies Tournament
Oct 7	Monthly Meeting
Nov 4	Banquet
Dec 2	Monthly Meeting

See the last page for 2010 Tourney Details

Ready to Rock!!!! Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour Set for July 24-31

The countdown has begun! In less than 20 days, 21 Waterdogs and 5 guests will head north to Angle Outpost, site of this year's 25th anniversary Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour.

The trip preparations begin this Thursday, July 8, when the Club will meet at 6 p.m. at Thorne Brothers (new location in Blaine, on Central Avenue, near the Blaine Sports Center). The trip booklet, t-shirts, caps, trip CDs will all be handed out. We'll go through trip highlights,

and we'll get the skinny on LOTW from Rob Kimm, former editor of Esos Angler, who is tentatively scheduled to speak. Then, it's on to the annual shopping spree — and the huge discounts offered to all Waterdogs and the LOTW guests on rods, reels, lures, and other accessories. See You There!! Duper

*From the Desk of the President,
Brian Karsjens – 'The Perp'*



It has been a different summer for me. I didn't get out fishing (other than Crappie Tournament) until last Saturday morning. There were a number of home projects including some landscaping in the back yard that had a deadline of June 25. We were planning on hosting the rehearsal dinner for my son's wedding in our back yard. As a result I decided to not even think about fishing until it was over. Got the project completed in time and then just like a Waterdog tournament, the weather got involved. Fortunately there was an indoor back up for the dinner and we took full advantage of it. My son had decided that he wanted to go fishing the morning of his wedding. David and I got up early (for him)

and went to Medicine Lake for a couple of hours on Saturday morning. We had a great time. The weather had cleared from the deluge of rain the night before. We ended up with 3 bass, one sunny and one northern in 2 hours and got back in time to clean up for the wedding. It was a good start to the day.

I noticed on Saturday that my depth finder was locked on 0.8 feet, so Barb and I went back out yesterday to do some troubleshooting. We fished Lake Independence and I figured out it was the transducer that was bad. I picked up a new one and will try and install it tonight.

All of this brings me to this. It is time to get things checked out and ready for the trip to Lake of the Woods. We are three weeks away from the annual pilgrimage to Musky Land. I discovered that I need to do some serious fishing between now and then to get my arms in shape so that I can spend a full week casting. I also found that all of my gear wasn't where I expected it to be and need to do some cleaning up and organizing.

Now that I can finally start thinking about fishing, I am excited for the trip and all that the committee has planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary.

Have a safe Independence Day weekend and see you at Thorne Brothers Thursday night.

Perp



Cold Dog

Wet Dog

Brown Fish

Big Fish

Welcome to Duluth!



It was back to the St. Louis River for the third Waterdogs tournament of the year, this time for walleyes. The weather was typical for Duluth at this time of the year, with the same cold and rainy conditions that we have experienced in past tournaments on the River, but it wasn't miserable enough to keep Carmen from taking a swim during pre-fishing on Friday.



Carmen Comes Up For Air

The accommodations were good and Saturday night dinner was better than in previous years. The only other problem to deal with was the mega-road construction that had the boats and trailers weaving around town trying to get from the landing to the hotel.

The fishing was a little slower than in years past, but the fish that were caught were running larger than before. Twenty Dogs fished

the two-day tournament that had a team limit on day one of 12 fish for a 9-hour day, and a limit of 6 fish on Sunday, which was a 6-hour day. In all, there were 4 daily limits caught out of a possible total of 20. Those teams that could put together a limit placed in the top 3 for the contest, although other teams also caught some nice fish.



Carmen and a 25

One team was able to catch a limit on both days, and that was the tournament winners Farm Boy and Spanky, with 18 fish total for a weight of 49 pounds. The second-place team was 20 pounds behind the leaders, which really showed the difference between filling out or not. The winning team shares their strategy later in the Dogumentary.

In second place was the team of OF and the Analyst, who caught 13 fish for the two days. They had a limit of 12 on the first day, but could only scrounge up a single keeper on day 2. In third was Fluffy and Juan, with 9 fish total, and a limit of 6 on the second day. Their second-day limit helped them move up from 8th place to third in the tournament.

The largest walleye of the tournament was a 29" caught by Little Angel Scott Squire who's story follows. Other notable big ones include a 26" by Shorty and a 24" by Suzy.



Shorty 26



Duper 24

The 15-hour tournament was fished by 20 Waterdogs, for a total of 300 man-hours on the water. There were 76 keeper walleyes caught during the tournament, which works out to an average of almost 4 hours to catch each keeper walleye. This was slower than previous years, but there were 5 walleyes of 25" or bigger caught, which is better than our previous tournaments on the St. Louis.

The VValley Victors

By Farm Boy

Our weekend started by getting on the water early afternoon on Friday and heading for the buoy's that had been the sight of much success in past years. We didn't catch a thing. We were joined by a few other boats, which also didn't catch a thing. We decided to head toward the mouth of the river and check out where some of the larger fish had been caught in past years. It was cold and choppy down there and we didn't catch a thing so we decided to opt for the comfort of returning to the upper river. When we neared the landing, we decided that we would be even more

comfortable in a restaurant somewhere so without any fruitful pre-fishing, we called it a day.

Acting on a hot tip from the news on Friday night and further confirmation at breakfast on Saturday morning, at the start of the tournament we headed straight for Spirit Lake Marina to see if we could catch a glimpse of the homemade sailboat we had seen on the news. It was quite impressive. We don't know if it added to our success, but it apparently didn't hurt. Having our curiosity satisfied, we decide to do some fishing. Without direction from our pre-fishing, we decided to troll out of the marina and toward Spirit Lake. Just past the marina, we saw Captain Kirk and Carmen pulling in the first Walleye we laid eyes on. After ribbing Carmen about his "weenie award worthy" spill from the boat the day before, we passed them up and trolled into Spirit Lake. We trolled down the channel leading into the lake and then cut over toward the island. As we approached the island, we saw Little Angel celebrating a nice catch right near the island. He later told us it was a 29 incher. We continued to troll along the island and saw a few fish being hauled in. We were using Lindy rigs with minnows, leeches and crawlers. The minnows didn't yield any fish, but we did catch a few on leeches and crawlers. Spanky was our "go-to" guy. He was using rigs that were recommended for use on his lake near Detroit Lakes. We tried to determine a pattern, but the catch was sporadic with some coming on our dead sticks and some on the active rods. Some came on his silver rig and some on his colored ones. The most consistent pattern was that we would catch one just after Spanky declared the fishing to be slow. But, each time we considered moving, we would catch another one and stayed. Besides, we assumed it was still cold down toward the big lake so we didn't want to return there. We filled our card late on Saturday and with 12 fish, we didn't do any culling.

Sunday, Spanky had the presence of mind to request a late checkout from the hotel so we could return after the tournament and shower and change into dry clothes before heading home. With only one tight-lipped team producing numbers rivaling ours, we saw no reason to head anywhere but back to our previous day's spot. Again, Spanky was the

one filling our card, with me catching one fish that latched onto my crawler while it sat in the water as we landed one of Spanky's fish. By 9:00 we had filled our card and with the cold getting to Mr. Florida and me, we decided to work our way out of the lake and toward the landing. After losing a fish as we approached the channel, we decided to take a risk on coming in 2nd to Analyst and Old Fart and high-tailed it to the hotel and that warm shower and dry clothes. Fortunately for us, only one other team filled out on Sunday and it wasn't the one that filled out on Saturday leaving us warm, dry and victorious.

Sometimes a Blind Squirrel Finds a Pig.

By Little Angel

On Saturday during the St. Louis River tournament I was fortunate to catch this nice 29 inch walleye. This was a personal best of mine that beat a 28 ½" that I caught in Canada last year. I was fishing with OJ when this one hit a Lindy rig and spinner combo on my 2nd rod in the rod holder. We were about 50 yards out from Spirit Island which is where alot of other Dogs had been fishing as well. At first I thought it was a Northern as we were close to some weed beds. But once we got our first look at this monster OJ ran for the net. We just had the small rubber net in the boat so OJ used the Chainsaw technique called "popcorning" to get the fish into the net. OJ did a nice job with the net as he had to reach over the motor to reach the fish and keep it from snagging the prop. We didn't catch a lot of fish that weekend but this was a memorable moment.



Personal Best 29"

Bass on the Run

A number of different wrinkles were added to this year's bass tournament that changed the strategy into a bit of a panic for many teams. The tournament took place over a two-day period from 2:30 to 8:30 on Friday and 5:30 to 11:30 am on Saturday. A total of six hours each day. During that time, teams could catch and count up to 6 fish from each of up to 4 lakes, for a total possible limit of 24 fish. The lakes were all to be located within Carver County, which has a total of 23 lakes to chose from. The net plan is that on average, each team had 3 hours of fishing time to catch 6 keeper bass from 4 different lakes – quite the challenge. As a result of the short hours to fish, no team was able to fill out with 24 fish, although some came close. Adding to the challenge was the wind, which blew at 20-30 mph on both days, making boat and lure control very difficult.

In the end it was the team of Felix and Griz who put together a string of 22 fish for a 54 pound total and first place by a ten pound margin over the second place team of FD and Meat, who caught 21 fish from 4 lakes. In third place was the team of Janitor and Juan, who caught fish from 4 different lakes, but just 14 total possible limit of 24. All the other teams weighed in fish from three or less lakes, which highlights the special logistical challenge that this tournament presented.

The special challenges of this tournament made it possible to create a set of statistics that give a little better idea on where they were biting or not.

The biggest fish that were 19" or better were caught here:

20.5	Zumbra	Griz
20.5	Wasserman	OF
20	Wasserman	Meat
20	Reitz	Farm Boy
19	Reitz	Farm Boy
19	Reitz	Felix
19	Reitz	OF
19	Steiger	Janitor
19	Pierson	Lil Angel

See any patterns there?



A Meaty 20

Here are some other stats:

Total bass caught:	108
Total lakes visited:	11 diff lakes – 30 visits
Average fish per visit:	3.6
Total weight:	243 lbs
Average size:	2.25 lbs (15.5")

There were 32 possible lakes to fish during the tournament and teams visited 11 of them, with mixed success. Here's how the lakes stacked up in popularity and success:

Lake	# Visits	#Caught	Fish/Visit
Waconia	5	9	1.8
Steiger	5	22	4.4
Lotus	4	23	5.75
Reitz	3	14	4.6
Zumbra	3	9	3
Auburn	3	4	1.3
Wasserman	2	9	4.5
Minnewashta	2	7	3.5
Susan	1	6	6
Pierson	1	2	2
Ann	1	1	1

It's interesting that some of the more popular lakes, like Waconia and Auburn were some of the least productive. Who knows which of the 20 or so lakes that were not fished may have been even better?

For the 12-hour tournament, there were 21 fishermen, with 3 fishing just 6 hours of the tournament. That adds up to 234 man-hours of fishing. With 108 keeper-sized bass caught, that works out to 2.16 hours to catch a keeper bass, not counting any fish that were culled from the 6-fish lake limits.

Run and Gun to the Winners Circle

By Felix

James and I discussed our strategy over lunch on the Tuesday preceding the Tournament.

We elected to go to Waconia first on Friday as the landing can get crazy on Saturdays if the weather is good. We thought we might have made a mistake as we gazed at the white caps and listened to the wind howl through the trees. At 2:30 we headed west right into the waves and started in the far SW corner of the lake in an area with both docks and reeds are available. James landed our first fish on a Spinner Bait while I was getting set up to move towards the docks. I think it was the only Spinner Bait fish we caught for the Tournament but it created a lot of optimism. This location was outstanding on the Sunday of opener weekend. It wasn't as prolific this day but we did catch three bass in this area. We moved north and caught two more bass near where the opening in the reeds is where the Sailboats are on the west side. There is a small opening in the reeds just to the south of the larger opening and the water was just a bit deeper, maybe 2 ½ feet to 3 feet as opposed to the 1 ½ foot we had been in. We each lost fish in this area also. We left after pounding it and tried some of the southern shore line first to the west and then near the big docks. Nothing . Decided to take our five fish and move.

We went to Reitz next. I didn't want to start the Tournament there because I knew at least a couple of other Dogs would be there and the landing isn't very big. I thought the other Dogs would do well and be off of the lake later in the day. OF and OJ were still there. We started on the South shore opposite of where Rick and Karl were and worked our way slowly towards them. Using Senkos slowly in the gaps in the Lily pads we were able to come up with five fish in about an hour and twenty minutes. Hindsight told us we spent too much time on Waconia struggling for the sixth fish!



Reitz 21" (prefishing)

Saturday morning we headed towards Zumbra. It's a tough landing for a bigger boat but we got in. Still windy, which limits where you can fish worms as slowly as we wanted. We got around the big rip rap point in the center of the lake and found a deep area with Lily pads right next to it and James started catching Bass. Between that small area and the deep drop directly adjacent to Hwy 7 James caught six bass, all on Senkos, all going very slow. This is where James tied into the 20 ½" fish.



Griz's 20.5, or is that a 30.5?

We raced to the landing and headed for Minnewashta. I made a wrong turn, going north on Minnewashta Parkway. As we were driving past the houses on the west side of the lake we could see that the wind wasn't bad near

their docks. Wasn't sure that was going to matter as I thought we could get our 6 fish in the bay where the landing is. We used Hwy 7 got back to 41 and on to the landing. We tried, but no luck in that bay. Moved to the docks and the shallow areas between where we could see Sunfish spawning beds. We were able to find 6 bass in these areas and raced back to the landing finding Chips and Helen Keller in the bay where I thought we would do well. There was a bit of a circus at the landing raising the level of stomach acid unnecessarily but we eventually got out and over to Floyds!

We finished with twenty-two bass. James caught all six on Zumbra, and the other sixteen

fish were split evenly between us. I had pre-fished all of the lakes we went to along with two others that we eliminated, Virginia and Susan. We also were contemplating Lotus but hearing of the slime and weed situation and knowing it is a recreational lake caused us to eliminate it. The weed situation on Steiger also caused us to eliminate that lake (I have since been out there and it is a lot better than I would have imagined!).

I believe our key was to fish slow and try to stay out of the wind using weightless Senkos.

2010 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ Saturday, April 10	Trout	WI Rivers	Fluffy, Caveman
√ Saturday, May 1	Crappie	Minnetonka	Banana Boy
√ Sat-Sun, June 5-6	Walleyes	St Louis River	Chips
√ Fri-Sat, June 18-19	Bass	Carver Co Lakes	Nasty, Felix
Saturday, August 28	Multispecies	Lake Alexander	Janitor
Saturday, Sep 18	Multispecies	Mississippi Pool 2	Suzy, Shatner