

The Dogumentary

30th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2012

July Monthly Meeting: Get Ready for Muskies!!!

The monthly meeting for July will take place at Thorne Brothers (www.thornebros.com), located at 10091 Central Avenue N.E., in Blaine, Minn.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. on July 12, 2012 (the second Thursday of July). Pizza and sodas will be ordered. Featured speaker will be Rob Kimm, former editor of Esox Angler and musky writer for Outdoor News (don't forget to bring your LOTW maps!!!). Carman will go over details for the upcoming LOTW trip, too. After the business portion of our meeting, it's on to our annual Thorne Brothers shopping spree — 20% off on tackle and lures, 20% off of rods, 10% off of reels. If you want anything special (electronics, clothes, lures, rods, etc.), call John Nelson at Thorne Bros. to have it waiting for you when you get there.



19 Days

Until Lake of the Woods!

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

2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

July 12	Monthly Meeting
July 21-28	LOTW Rock'nRoll Musky Tour
Aug 2	Monthly Meeting
Aug 17	Multi Tournament
Sep 6	Monthly Meeting
Sep 8	Multi Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Oct 6	Bass Tournament
Nov 1	Banquet

See the last page for 2012 Tourney Details



We're five events down and only three to go (not including LOTW) of what must be one of the highest participation seasons our club has ever enjoyed. Kudos to FD and his tournament committee for their great work this year! Can

you remember the last time our club had eight events? It's a WOW year!

The Analist continues to lead our gang in YTD points, and there's an even ten-point spread between each of our top three anglers: Analist at 77, Griz at 67 and Shatner at 57. Recently Chips alerted me to a handwritten note in an addendum to the 2002 tournament regulations that awards the 4th place angler a 30 point bonus when this mathematical anomaly occurs. I guess I'd take it more seriously if Chips weren't in 4th place... and if the note wasn't made in his own handwriting...

Last month I predicted a surge in the scoring by yours truly, alluding to my acquisition of a new "super-Senko" worm. Indeed it proved to help team Analist-Greenstick edge out the Fluffy-Griz team in the bass tournament, so the ten bucks they cost on eBay really paid off! And the buzz baits I originally bought for the bass tournament proved to aid the Janitor-Greenstick team in the Forest Lake Multi-Species event where we finished third. For the first time in my life I called my catch. Our team was in the channel of lake 2, not too far from the mouth of lake 3, and the Janitor was just killing them – crappie, bass, crappie, sunny, bass, crappie, one after another – each cast produced a bigger and better fish. The show he was putting on was awesome and great fun to witness but knowing I couldn't improve much on that, I grabbed my rod with a little buzz bait tied on and announced, "I'm gonna throw this thing over there and catch us a northern..." and whhhrrrrrrrrrrrr.... out went the lure... WHAM! Half-a-minute later we had a qualifying northern to add to our point count. The Janitor said, "Geez, why don't you do that more often?"

So here we are at LOTW month. While the group of LOTW-bound dogs number only 66% of previous years, I'm pretty sure that the decreased attendance won't affect their fun. Take photos and videos and come back to our next meeting to regale us of your exploits and more stories of legendary fish and follows that turned into hits as well as misses. Good luck, guys – and be safe!

My son and I went out to 'Tonka last week and hammered some bass and a few panfish on a warm, clear, blue-sky day. While I was trolling us through the weeds, I had a chance to

hearken back to fishing with my dad back in the '50s in our aluminum boat, and how paranoid my mom was about anybody standing up in it, "NO STANDING!" she'd holler at us. I've always wondered why she was worried about that. The boat was a deep V-hulled Crestliner that didn't have a floor and if you tried to stand up at all, you'd almost break your ankles on the steep incline of that hull. I don't think fishing was supposed to be painful, but that boat sure made it so. It was a go-anywhere, launch-anywhere manly boat. Pull-start, 18hp Evinrude tiller, wooden bench seats... a small cuddy in the front where we kids hid from the hot sun... We never caught anything so we saw it basically as a waste of time. But now I look back on it quite fondly, and I understand that it wasn't a waste of time at all.

I pray that someday my son enjoys recalling some fishing memories, too. At least we catch fish! I hope you have a chance to get out and make some memories this month. See you on the water!

-Greenstick

Lake of the Woods Update

By Carmen

We are at 16 with Banana Boy and Suzy leaving on Wednesday.

Cabin mates are: Felix, Janitor and Chips in the Old Guys. Kojak, Perp and Puddin Man in Video Boys. Sticky, Dr. Uno, Buick and Bertha in Woodies. Shorty, Dr. Meat, Fluffee, Suzy, Banana Boy and Carmen in the Party Cabin.

I have Felix, Shorty, Sticky, Perp, Puddin Man, Chips, Dr. Meat, Carmen, Dr. Uno, Fluffee, Bertha and Banana Boy going up on Friday.

The phone number to the Super 8 in Warroad is 218-386-3723.

The Saturday drive group is Janitor, Kojak, Buick and Suzy.

...And the Bass Were Assassinated

It was a new place and a new time for Tournament Number Four fishing for Bass in Scott and Dakota counties, with a choice of any of the 13+ lakes in the two counties for the teams to fish. The tournament was on Friday afternoon, June 1, which already seems like a long time ago. Twenty-Six Dogs took the afternoon off to fish, and pounded the bass into submission, with 115 fish coming in on the scorecards, not counting any culls. There were four 20-inch largemouth caught, topped by Mama's Boy's 20.5 incher. All four 20-inchers came from O'Dowd.



Of the 13 teams competing, nine of them ended up fishing on O'Dowd lake, which was the lake that more teams visited than any other. How so many teams came up with O'Dowd is still a mystery. The next two most popular lakes were Prior and Thole (next to O'Dowd), but those lakes saw just 3 teams visit. All of the other lakes that were fished in the tournament were visited by just single teams.



Only three teams were able to put a double-limit of 6 fish from two different lakes, with more teams opting for the single-lake eight-fish limit. The top team was Team Analist-Greenstick who fished O'Dowd and Thole lakes, like some other teams also did, but they were able to catch and cull their way to a limit that was just under a pound more than the second-place team of Fluffy and Griz. The third place team of Hillary and Spanky was eight pounds back, and positions 4 through 9 were separated by just 3 pounds.

Can't See the Forest through the Fish

Tournament Number 5 turned out better than expected as Forest Lake put out a good number of a mixed bag of fish for the Multi-Species tournament. Twenty-Two Waterdog anglers were on hand for the Saturday morning tournament on a lake that was surprisingly spare of pleasure boaters and jet skis. This was the first time that partners were picked at the landing, which made the live bait set-up interesting. Teams did well on the fish, but some species required going through a bunch of small fish in order to find a board-member-sized fish. Every team caught both a qualifying largemouth and northern, topped by Mega-Duper's 19" largemouth, which was the "big fish" of the tournament.



The Northerns were decent-sized for a city lake, up to a 30" for the team of Kojak and Little Angel. Ten teams caught a qualifying bluegill, and five teams caught a crappie.



Only two teams were able to come up with a walleye, with the team of Nasty and Spanky getting one of them for a five-specie day, and the tournament win. Five other teams came in with four species, and all together there were a lot of fish caught. The restaurant at the finish was happy to see the hungry club and gave us a room to ourselves, which was nice. It was a good enough tournament overall to consider coming back to Forest Lake again in the future.

Burning Through Forest Lake

By Nasty

The day started out at 2:55 am. My alarm was set for 3:00 am. As I got up, I could hear it raining. Oh great, I thought....typical waterdog weather. I got dressed and went out to hook up my boat and had to put on my rain gear. It rained until I got hooked up and then it stopped. As some of you may have noticed, I still had rain gear on when I got to the landing. I met Griz at the landing, or should I say "Mr. Clean". The blind draw had me paired with Spanky. It turned out to be a really good draw for us. We hadn't fished together before and had no strategy. Spanky announced "I have no bait". I responded "see you later". Spanky further stated that he had Called Frankies and they would be open at 5:00 am. Off he went. The tournament started as I waited at the landing. Shortly thereafter Spanky returned without bait. He said they weren't open and wouldn't open until 6:00am. Off he went again. After giving Frankie an earful, Spanky returned with bait.

The first spot we fished was the first pencil reeds to the right of the landing. On the

second cast I landed a nice 18-inch Largemouth. The bass was caught on the secret white spinner bait. I moved to the next spot which was the Crappie hole that Phil told us about. I used a 1/32 oz Little Guppie Crappie bait. The eleven inch Crappie took it as it was falling on the first cast. Onto the third spot we go. This time fishing for Walleyes. We tried the rock piles on the first lake to the left of the landing. Nothing doing out there. We continued our quest on first lake, fishing the weedy bays opposite from the channel. Right away, I got a 22 inch Northern. Next cast, a 29 inch Northern caught on a Musky size white spinner bait. That's three species and it's only 9:00. We continued fishing the first lake now looking for a Walleye. We met Chainsaw, said "hi" and continue on. Spanky decided to change baits going with a float rig tipped with a leach. No sooner than the bait was in the water, a Walleye was on. I did my best trying to knock it off, needing three tries at the net.



Next was an inlet lined with Lilly pads. We caught about 20 six inch sunnies before we got a counter. It's about 10:30 and we now have five species. We spent the rest of the day looking for a Muskie with no luck. We did catch several more 15 inch bass and many Northerns up to 29 inches. We were not confident about our success however, until we were at the landing and heard the other scores.

Bertha's hits his Favorite Lake – again

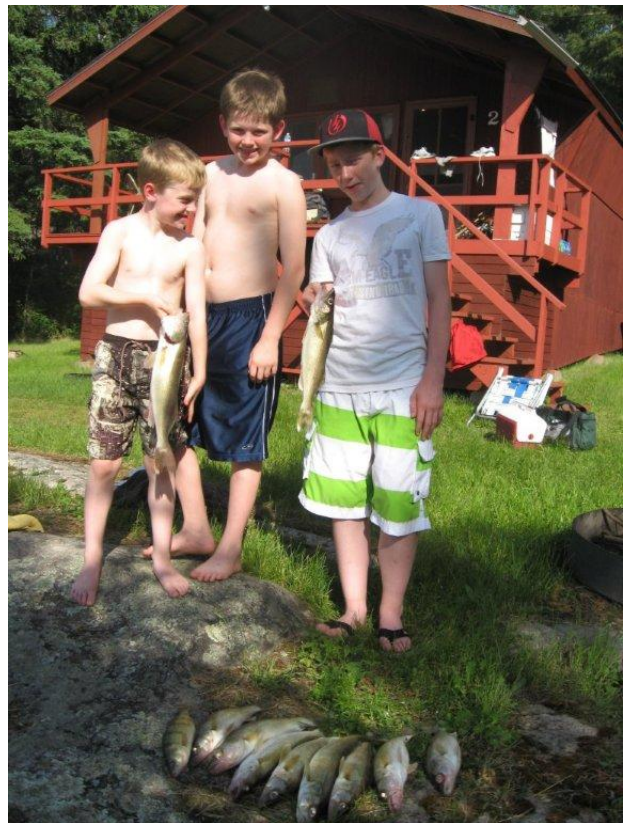
I went up to the NW Angle for some walleye fishing on June 11-18 with my posse of priests and kids.

In usual Waterdog fashion, we arrived at the Angle Outpost with a fifty degree temperature drop. It was 45 degrees and the wind was blowing at 35 miles an hour with black rain clouds coming on the horizon. In unfashionable Waterdog style, we did not get there till 9:30 pm, and we still had to travel out to Fort St. Charles on Magnuson Island which is right on the run to the big lake. Jason, the new owner of Angle Outpost, who was more than helpful the whole week even though we were not staying at the resort, told us that this was the weather to expect all week. We battened down the hatches and loaded the boats as fast as we could and headed to the island. Certainly the rookies to this type of trip, and me too, asked themselves what in the hell did I sign up for.

To start the trip, we had four priests, myself included, and two boats. Perp was more than generous with his time to help me put on a Humminbird GPS on my brother's boat. For me, now a captain, this became the best tool of the trip. I just loved using the GPS, not only for travel, but also to put us right on some good structure. My priest friend with the other boat, had an 18 foot Lund with all the toys, which he inherited from his dad, who died a year ago from cancer at age 68. We started our day at the retreat with breakfast, a Holy Hour of Prayer, Mass at the Chapel on the Fort, and then by this time it was lunch time. So we called ourselves the "afternoon gang." We usually got to the fishing at 1 pm and then quit by 6 pm., in time to fry up some walleyes and enjoy some nectar. My brother came on Thursday with his three boys. By Thursday, we had found two "Honey Holes", about the size of a house, that provided more walleyes than we could eat (we limited out each day, with two apiece) and we always managed to find a way to eat that last piece of beer batter walleye...what a treat. The spots my friend started fishing were somewhat out of the blue, and he stated that he felt his dad's presence on the whole trip, putting him on the fish.



Since the wind was blowing constantly, with five foot waves on the big lake, the CANPass and Canadian License were the ticket. We caught almost all the walleyes with bottom bouncers and spinners (crayfish-colored) with crawlers. We did spend some time casting for smallmouth, I caught about 10 on a chartreuse and white bass spinner bait by the rock rubble. We also caught 3 small muskies, and northerns, but nothing worth talking about.



It was good to get out with my nephews and see them put into practice all that I have been teaching them. I think they all out-fished me. In fact, one of my nephews took me to the

bank with five dollar bets on first fish, most fish (12 walleyes in an afternoon) and biggest, 27 inch. The picture with the two walleyes are both his. I netted his 27, and handed him my rod, and while I was unhooking the 27, he set the hook on a 25 incher. The kids are all about as competitive as me with fishing, and he was talking some smack about smoking me. My other nephew caught a 26.5, and the youngest, I think he is 6 or 7, caught a 24.5 inch, all bigger than my fish, and all caught by themselves with no help. I was happy that they were the ones catching them, and I was able to use a lot of the knowledge of LOTW that we gathered from our trips to help put them on the fish.



The water temps up there were from 65 to 70 degrees, which I thought was high for this time of the year, and the water level seemed somewhat normal - to almost low.



If you notice on Isaac's 26.5 inch, something took a big bite out of that fish....that muskie is waiting for your bait!!!!!!

Big Lake - Big Smallies

By Stu

It all started at the May Waterdog meeting at Tuttle's. Kirk was talking to Todd and I came over to say hi. Todd was talking smallmouth, a species I am particularly fond of catching, so I became very interested in what he was saying. Kirk also seemed very intent. Todd was saying how so many fisherman fish Mille Lacs for walleyes but few are going after the smallmouth bass of which he extolled there are many, and many are big ones! His enthusiasm was contagious and I said something like "Man I love smallmouth fishing, I'm going to have to try that sometime." To which Todd looked at Kirk and I and said how about us going on Tuesday June 5th? Kirk was first with a smile and "my calendars empty that day." All I could manage was "I'm in." So it was done, and we said we'd talk as it got closer.

It was a perfect day, little wind, and blue sky as we left the ramp on the northwest shore of Lake Mille Lacs. Todd mentioned that we would hit maybe five different spots up the shoreline. He took us to rocky outcroppings and we fished a variety of baits. Spinner baits, buzz baits, pig & jig, topwater plugs, and Senkos, were all used with success. We caught fish in every spot. At the end of the day we estimated that 90 smallmouth were caught, and 3 walleyes. We believe the average size was 17-18". The biggest went 21", and we caught numerous 19 and 20's.



Todd was running the trolling motor and caught the majority of the fish. In some spots he was catching them one-after-another. Kirk used a variety of baits during the course of the day and caught a lot of fish. He did very well on a

white buzz bait and an orange crank bait. I was in the back of the boat throwing a wacky rigged Senko most of the day. To me though, the biggest thrill was when we started to throw topwater plugs. The bass would hit them when you stopped twitching the bait. What a sight and sound to see and hear.



The fishing was good all day with no down time. We never had another boat near us all day. We could see all the boats huddled up on the offshore reefs but we were alone. As the day came to an end Todd took us to a small bay where it appeared to have a creek draining into the lake. There was a small channel with weeds on both sides. It was thick with smallies. We could see them scatter as we trolled in. I don't know how many we caught in that bay but it was a great ending to a day of fishing that I know I and Kirk won't forget.

Thanks Todd!

Nasty and Family took a vacation to Lake Michigan, where daughter Maddie and son Alex caught these King Salmon:



Here's a couple of Jumbo Trout that were caught by the Men in Baggy Tights from Johnson Crik somewhere in Minnesota.



Bass Season Trout by Shatner

The Rangers have been parked in the garage most of the spring as the Anderson brothers and I have continued our pursuit of trout close to home here in Minnesota. Most seasons we have put our waders away about mid-May and turned our attention to bass on the local lakes. After reading some trout forum information about big MN Browns being caught not far south of the Metro area we started exploring some new water we have not fished before. That's when we came across Johnson Crik, not to be confused with Peterson Crik which is in WI.

In about a half dozen outings over the last month we have managed 6 brutes over 20" topped by a 23.5" last week. Many 17-20" fish have also been caught. The preferred bait has

been the larger PM's with a gold #9 being my favorite. With the heavy growth of vegetation this time of year we have found it necessary to stay in the streams and wade up current making long casts. Carrying a large net has been very helpful in landing these larger fish. I would put these 20+ trout right up there with a SM as far as fighting and power.

Oh by the way if you decide to try some more trout fishing this time of year be prepared to give about a pint of blood to the mosquitoes and horse flies.



2012 Tournament Schedule

Date (Saturdays)	Hours	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ 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	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	8:16-2:38pm	Multi	Pepin	Suzy - Hillary
Oct 6		Bass	Clearwater	Griz - Nasty