

The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

September 2005

Next Meeting – Thursday September 1

The next meeting will be at the usual spot, the Hopkins VFW, with dinner at 6pm, and the meeting starting at 7. As of presstime, there is not a speaker lined up, but we're hoping to get someone to talk about muskies on Mille Lacs. If you have any ideas, call Mama's Boy.

The 2005 Waterdog Calendar

Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 17	Musky/Pike Tourney
Oct 6	Monthly Meeting
Oct 15	Wissota Outing
Nov 3	Banquet – Biaggi's
July 22-29 2006	Rock'nRoll Musky Tour

Tournament details are on the last page.

President's Corner: Doug Squire



Here we are at the end of August already as the summer just breezes by. I just finished reading the Lake of the Woods Dogumentary, it was nicely done again this year. The recap of the trip reminded me of how tough it was (at least for me) this year to catch those elusive skies on this year's trip.

I started out great with a nice 40" fish that I had hooks in at the boat 1 hour into the trip. I had a new eagle tail (black and red) that this fish inhaled right next to the boat off the Pancake Islands. As Bryan was getting the net into position, the fish jumped totally out of the water, and she was gone. It was just the beginning of the trip, so expectations were high. As it turned out, that first hour was one of the few real good opportunities I had with fish during the week. Here was a typical day for me this year.

Friday July 29th the last day of the trip and I was fishing with Bomber. We got out on the lake at 7:30, which was my usual start time. Both Bryan and I have seen numerous fish during the week, so my plan was to hit as many of these spots throughout the day. The weather was finally good with less wind to deal with.

We started the day by hitting spots south of Monument Bay where we had seen fish early, and cast and cast with nothing. Moved to Cochrane Island again no action or fish seen. Moved to the island south of Cochrane where Perp landed his first muskie with me earlier in the week – again, nothing. Bryan wanted to hit some spots in Outer Bay, so there we went. Bryan landed a 25" northern, but no muskies seen. After a break for lunch, we headed into the Big Narrows. I hadn't been here all week so we moved to various spots that I had seen fish on previous trips and still nothing. The weeds in the area seemed like they would be holding fish, but nothing to be seen. Then we headed off to the Toadstools which were pretty productive area through the week. The water was fairly green with algae as the wind had been blowing hard into this area all week. My best reel 6500 high speed decided to quite on

me after 3 years without an issue, it stopped reeling in. So put on one of my back up reels and cast some more and still nothing. Next stop, Baptiste rock area. Again, this was a very nice area with great weeds, rocks deep water, and still nothing seen. We moved to Separation point area and cast 100 more times with nothing. It was getting late in the day by now, so we started heading back and made our last stop at Cochrane and fished a few bays. I lost the high speed on my trolling motor as I hit some rocks, but this didn't slow us down much, we still had plenty of power to control the boat. Finally I got a hit on my Vibrax on a cast deep into the bay. I set the hooks good and had the fish on. It made three good runs as it striped line off the reel I thought this could be a nice fish. We got the fish to the boat, and it was a nice mid 30's northern. At 6:15 we made our traditional last cast of the trip. We fished hard the whole day, 11 hours on the lake and didn't see a musky that day. Yeah, the both of us were a bit frustrated, but it really didn't matter, as we both had a great trip. We are fishing such good water on the LOTW trip, that you feel your just one cast away from landing the 50" fish. The trip was still a success, no major boat, trailer or truck problems, no major cuts or scrapes, just Dog tired! Can't wait till next year.

Mamas Boy

No Limits to the Fun on Rush Lake

On Saturday August 20, the club held its fifth tournament of the year on beautiful Rush Lake up off interstate 35 by Rush City. Beautiful, especially if you're a frog. The lake was green with algae and had very shallow water around most of the shoreline, which made the shallow fishing difficult just to move the boat around. Renamed 'Slimy Stink Hole of a Lake', the weedline was only at 5' in Rush, due to the stained water, and traditional presentations were just not working. For a bass tournament, it was a very tough lake, which is interesting, as many tournaments are held on Rush Lake each year. Twenty Waterdogs fished the tournament.

The tournament was won by Fishdick and Brandy, who found a string of docks by the trailer park that had deeper water around them, and bass under them. Other docks on the lake generally ended in depths of two feet or

less, but by the trailer park, it was closer to 4 feet on the deep end. They flipped light-weight plastic worms under the docks where there were many bass hiding in the shade of the docks and the many pontoon boats tied up to them. Bob and Brandon caught eight bass, and lost several others, to take the tournament, which had a limit of 12 fish per team, theoretically. Like many other teams, the boys were fishless for the first three hours of the tournament until they moved into the pontoon city by the trailer park. More tournament tales will be told at the September meeting.



Fishdick with a Party-Barge Bass

Other weed areas around the lake produced scarce fish, with the second and third place teams coming in with only three fish per team. In second was the team of the Janitor and Suzy with Suzy catching an 18 1/2" on a spinnerbait. In third was Nasty Boy and Chips, with three fish anchored by another 18 1/2 ", caught by Nasty. In fourth place was Kojak and Helen. Fifth went to Felix and Father Bertha, and in sixth was Little Angel and Juan Valdez.



Nasty Wakes Up to an 18.5"



RBC Dain Fishing Team

The Tournament Series is Tight

With one tournament to go, the race is still tight for the year with Felix out in front by 7 points, but six other guys are within 15 points. It appears that the all-team competition format for this year has helped to tighten up the point standings, although the top six places are all held by guys who have fished all of the tournaments. The next tournament is for muskies and northerns on Mille Lacs, which is a tournament that can go any which way. One fish caught or lost could make the difference in the year's standings. The pairing for this last tournament will be made in opposite order from the standings list for the year, so the points will be flying at Mille Lacs. And of course, it could be your chance to catch a personal best, as Fluffee did at the last Mille Lacs musky tournament.

Lake of the Woods Revisited

Sometimes, handles come when you least expect them, and often due to something that you have no control over. At Lake of the Woods, the last get-together was on the Saturday morning before we left, when we had breakfast and the awards presentation. At this time, Jessica Fandrich was giving away some door prizes, which they always do by drawing our names out of a hat. In one case, she said that the winner was Fish-'Something', with a blush. Then she named a few other winners of t-shirts and such, including a certain 'Mama's Box', which brought out a round of laughter. Since then, this guy, 'Mama's Box' has been reacting like he may not like the new handle, so you are advised not to use it, unless you think it's funny...

Felix Nails Personal Best Musky - Again

Within three weeks of catching his personal best musky of 44" at Lake of the Woods, Felix caught another new lifetime record of 49" on Lake Minnetonka on the Friday before the Rush Lake tournament. He was out fishing bass with Southern Man when the fish hit his blue spinnerbait on bass gear with no leader. Luckily, they were able to land, measure, and photograph the fish.



Felix and his New Squeeze, 'LaFawnDuh'

Board Meeting Notes from 8/22/05

The board of directors met to talk about some ideas and direction for the club. Here are a few of the ideas talked about. There will be further discussion at the meeting for whoever wants to talk about any of these ideas.

Membership participation- was discussed by the group. A number of members seem to be falling short of the 50% participation requirements of the club. Doug Squire will review participation by our members with Scott Hennessy. Doug will contact those members that are falling short and ask if they plan to participate more in the future.

Equipment specifications- Directors discussed the importance of having a working marine band radio on club events for various safety reasons. We feel that bylaws should add that – A functional marine band radio (fix mast antenna) is required on club events.

Boat size requirements – Having a minimum boat size was discussed to see if we should add a requirement to the bylaws. We agreed that we should not put minimum requirements on boats, as we have had many small boats in the past history of the club, with no issues.

Tournament committee chair and Phone caller committee chair should review the sign up sheet before pairings are made. Captain's boats will be reviewed on a case by case bases and determination will be made if boats that have signed up are suitable for that specific tournament.

Make up date- We proposed having a date in early October to be set at the beginning of the season as a possible make up date. In the event a tournament is canceled we will use the October date to make up the canceled tournament.

Oil allowance- We would like to have a \$50 oil allowance for all boats (two or four stroke) during LOTW annual trip.

Team tournaments- We would like to encourage the team formats on future events. The board believes this format distributes things more evenly in the overall point standings as well as improves camaraderie in events.

Pairings - we should update past tournament pairings at least for the last few years. Tournament chair and phone caller chair should review these prior to making pairings. We should try to not pair anyone up that has fished with that person in the last year or possible two.

Waterdogs 2005 Tournament Series

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	Bass	Rush Lake	Lantto – Johnson
Sep 17 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Mille Lacs	Leibrock - Haagenson