

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

September 2007

25th Anniversary Party set for Thursday, September 6

The Invitations have gone out and the plans have come together for a great evening of fun and memories as current and former members and families get together to talk about the good old days in the club. The picnic will be held at the normal meeting time from 6 to 9 pm on Thursday, September 6 at Bryant Lake Park in Eden Prairie. If you have not seen an invitation, go to the Waterdogs website and get a copy here:

<http://www.waterdogsmn.org/reunion/25th%20Anniversary%20Invite.pdf>

Please RSVP to Farm Boy ASAP with how many are coming in your family.

The 2007 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Sep 6	25th Anniversary Party
Sep 15	Musky/NP Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Nov 1	Annual Banquet
Dec 6	Monthly Meeting

President's Corner – James Ferstenou



The Waterdogs 25th anniversary celebration is now nearly upon us. Plans are completed, many guests have RSVP'd and we're all looking forward to a celebration of the club's history. We have over 35 current and former 'Dogs planning to attend from several different states and several different eras of the club's history. It should be a great time to celebrate and share stories of the club's past events and history. I'll see you there next Thursday. I'd like to send a special thanks out to Farmboy for heading up the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee and helping to guide us through all of the various planning involved to pull off this event. Thanks also to all of the committee members that so willingly volunteered their time and effort to find a venue, plan food, put together a slide show, contact former 'Dogs, etc. We couldn't have planned and assembled such an event without all of you. Thanks again.

The tournament season is nearing an end, only one left to go. Many people are still in the running for the top three spots after the Pepin tournament. Congratulations to the team of Scott Hennessey, Tom Keller and Rick Wagner on their win with five different species. We

opened this tournament up to more species than usual (nine total) and even though the weather was less than perfect, I thought that it was an interesting twist on our normal multi-species tournaments. Overall eight out of the nine species were caught (no one caught a sturgeon, although plenty of non-counting drum were caught). We may want to consider adding more species to our multi-species tournaments going forward if the body of water involved lends itself to doing so.

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

Griz

3-Man Team Wins at Pepin Multispecies



In the river, you never know what you're going to get!

It was a dark and stormy night...perfect weather for another Waterdogs tournament. The threat of rain and winds caused the original launch area to be changed, but despite the all-day rain, a good time was had by the 19 Dogs (9 teams) who fished the tournament. It was a tough tournament for fish, however, with all teams catching at least 2 different species, and two teams getting 5 qualifying species out of the 9 possible.

The first place team was the 3-man group of Kojak, Helen, and Wags, who caught 5 species, and also the biggest point-counter, a 16.5" white bass caught by Tom Keller. The complete story of their winning strategy is below. In second place was the team of

Janitor and OF, also with 5 species, which included the only crappie and only catfish caught in the tournament.

In third was Shatner and Carmen with 4 species, followed by Nasty and Suzy with 3 species. In fifth was the team of Greenstick and Griz, with 4 species, and in sixth was the Perp and Juan with 2 species.

In all, here are the number of qualifying species reported by the teams in the tournament:

Specie	# of Teams Catching	Tourney Largest
White Bass	6	16.5"
Largemouth Bass	5	15.5
Smallmouth Bass	5	14
Northern Pike	4	31
Bluegill	4	8.5
Walleye	2	15.5
Catfish	1	20.5
Crappie	1	12
Sturgeon	0	

Here's the story of the Winning Team's day, as told by Captain Kojak:

We started in the Marina, thinking we might pick-up a sunfish or crappie, no such luck. But I did snag a 40 foot houseboat.

Next we went out to the main river channel just north of the marina entrance, on the Wisconsin side, looking for likely bass spots. We saw a point with downed timber, so stopped to fish. I caught the largemouth on my second cast using a yellow spinnerbait. Wagner also lost a fish in the same spot using a crankbait.

We went up river after a short, nonproductive trolling run. We went out into the main lake, trolling the southern edge for walleyes. Again, nonproductive.

Then, we went back to the place on the Minnesota side where there were many boats that appeared to be camped on a school of white bass (in front of a small town, don't know the name). The water was 9-12 feet, again nothing. We decided to go down stream to look for shallow water opportunities for pike. Tried several places, and again, no luck. Kept going down stream, found a nice deep run on

the Wisconsin side of the channel, so we trolled for walleyes.

The water was extremely rough, so we headed back North again, looking for shallow water opportunities. We saw a Ranger boat back in a channel so we figured there must be a way in. As we neared a point of an island, Helen caught a nice smallmouth on a yellow spinnerbait. We never did figure out how to get back in that channel which was a little south on the Wabasha bridge.

Going north again we decided to troll for the walleye, we started on the Wisconsin side, near where I caught the largemouth. We trolled unsuccessfully until we got to the little town. I decided to cross the channel because we were not marking any fish on the Wisconsin side and I had earlier marked fish on the Minnesota side. As we crossed the channel, Wagner caught our walleye on a crankbait.

After catching the walleye, it was about 1 PM. We had a strategy conference, we figured if we could get a sunfish and northern we might be in the hunt for winning the tournament. I saw a little bay on the Minnesota side and said I bet there is a sunfish in there, and I can see three boats tied up to docks, so there must be a way in. So we went for it. When we were getting close, a "river rat" on his Jon boat came down the shore, made a right turn in front of the bay out to the main channel. He in fact, showed us the way in with that turn. The bay was shallow, but there was a nine foot hole by a rocky point. My first cast in the hole with a worm on a bobber produced a 6" sunfish. The second cast gave us our 7" fish. We tried a few more casts, but no more sunfish. Wagner did get a perch and rock bass.

We decided to go back and try for the white bass, using spinnerbaits rather than the crankbaits that we tried earlier, again no luck. We started casting the shorelines north of the small town for pike. Still nothing.

It now was about 2 PM. We decided to try the island kind of out front of the bay where we got the sunfish. We had fished the back side for northerns, where Helen had lost a fish we thought might have been a northern. Again it was shallow, about 5 feet. We had seen the waves wash over a big sand bar, so I tried to take us parallel, hoping we would find

something. As I got in front of the sandbar, Helen threw his yellow spinnerbait just in front of the sand bar. As the bait hit the water, there was an explosion of whitebass. There must have been 30 or more fish jumping out of the water, feeding on minnows. I saw both minnows and white bass breaking the surface. We speculate the bass had surrounded the minnows ready to strike, and Helen's lure triggered the feeding. In all the confusion, Helen shouted " hey I got one", it turned out to be the highest point fish of the tournament, a 16.5" white bass.

At about 2:15 PM we decided to try the marina entrance for Pike. Just at the entrance, Helen briefly had a pike on, but lost it on the yellow spinnerbait. We slowly fished the remainder of the entrance, but frankly lost some enthusiasm. Like the rest of the Dogs, we were wet and tired, so took the boat out of the water and called it a day.

Kojak

While You Were at LOTW:

Armit Lake Fly In

Bt Little Angel

While the Dogs were up at Lake of the Woods my son and I along with Chuck, my business partner, and his son flew up to Armit Lake. The trip started out of Sioux Lookout which is northwest of Dryden. We arrived on Thursday, late afternoon and were able to have enough time to fly that same day to the lake. Armit Lake is about an hour's flight from Sioux Lookout. The lake system is about 4 miles wide in spots and 14 miles long. We saw only a fraction of the lake.

The resort was one 3 bedroom cabin and the only cabin on the lake. We saw no other boats the entire time we were there.

Chuck had fished the lake before, so he had some ideas on where to start fishing. Last year when they went up they had caught quite a few walleye, but were not sure how many. This year he got each boat a counter to keep track of the number we caught.

We fished for 3 days and between the four of us we caught 497 walleyes and a few northern

(by mistake.) I have never caught that many walleyes in my life, much less in one trip.



Number 316 of 497

We usually had breakfast at 7:00AM, came in for lunch and dinner, and still managed to get a lot of fish.

Most of the fish were 16 to 20 inches with some of the larger ones up to 25 inches. The lake is known for its numbers more than having large fish.

The fish were not fussy when it came to bait. We used 1/4-3/8 oz jigs tipped with minnows, leaches or crawlers. Toward the end of our trip we were running out of bait and tried artificial bait but found they preferred live bait.

As we scouted for new fish locations we found that the walleyes were concentrated around the weed edges where you would normally find northern. We even had a walleye that was caught and a northern latched onto it as we were bringing it in... we got a 2 for 1 as the northern wouldn't let loose.

It was a great trip. If anyone wants to check it out sometime the resort is Hidden Bay Lodge, web address is <http://www.hiddenbay.com>.

"Little Angel"

After You Were at LOTW:

Perp and Son visit Vermillion

My son, David wanted to go musky fishing for the first time, so we planned a trip to Lake

Vermillion last weekend. (I think the LOTW pictures and stories had hooked him.)

I talked to Buick, Kojak and Janitor after the Lake Pepin tournament about fishing Lake Vermillion for muskies hoping to get some advice on locations, etc. Following the sage advice of the veterans, we decided to fish the west arm of Lake Vermillion. We targeted the areas that had been suggested as well as other good looking spots. The weather Saturday was nice, partly sunny in the low 70's with water temps around 66. The submerged reefs (recommended spots) were getting hit hard by one boat after another, but we joined the parade anyway. We didn't see anything on the reefs either day. About 10:00 AM Saturday we spotted an upper 40's muskie in a shallow bay on the south side of Turtle Island. It was not at all interested in anything we had to offer, but David had now at least seen a muskie. Later in the afternoon we had another sighting and follow of a mid 40's muskie. Again, it was only slightly curious and not interested in anything other than a casual look.

A front came thru Saturday night and Sunday the wind picked up switching from the south to the east during the morning. Fishing turned off. We didn't see a thing.

The highlight for the weekend occurred at 12:00 noon Saturday. We were fishing the north shore of Ormands Island and a small bay on the NW corner. David, casting a white vibrax attempted to put the lure by two rocks near the shore, but the cast went astray. As he was reeling in and mumbling about the misdirected cast he saw the flash out of the corner of his eye as the muskie hit his lure. He set the hook and the fight was on. I got my lure out of the water and headed the boat away from shore. I grabbed the net, answering his questions about what to do next, and telling him to keep his line tight and try to keep the fish down in the water. The muskie went down and out twice and on the third time back in toward the boat he got it up enough for me to get it into the net. After getting the hooks out, we measured the 32 inch muskie, took pictures of her and had a successful release. After a high five, David commented that he had gotten what he came for. I am not sure who was more excited, the kid or the old man, but I know another muskie fisherman now. We had

taken walleye and smallie tackle with us, but when asked if he wanted to fish for either, the comment was always the same. "Let's keep muskie fishing, as that is what we came for."



David Karsjens Lifetime First Musky

This has been a great year of fishing for me. Because of opportunities that I have had as part of the Waterdogs to experience fishing for multiple species, I was able to introduce my

son to two new species this year, trout and muskie. He experienced success at both and now has 2 more species that he enjoys fishing for. He talks excitedly about his next fishing outing. Hopefully, it will be with Dad at least some of the time.

Membership Report:

There are 5 names on the membership waiting list. The five, along with their sponsor and the date put on the list are:

- Glen Johnson 7/05 James Ferstenou
- Andy Petrich 6/06 Rick Wagner
- Ken Burkhart 2/07 James Ferstenou
- Stu Pagel 8/07 Ron Boudreaux
- Bruce Nauber 8/07 Tom Keller

- Perp

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