

The Dogumentary

28th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

September 2010

September Meeting

The September meeting will be back at Tuttle's Grill and Lanes in Hopkins on Thursday September 2. The meeting starts at 7pm, with earlier diners gathering at 6. As of press time we do not have a speaker for the meeting.

2010 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Sep 2	Monthly Meeting
Sep 18	Multispecies Tournament
Oct 7	Monthly Meeting
Nov 4	Banquet
Dec 2	Monthly Meeting

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

It is hard to believe that Labor Day is this weekend. With summer nearly behind us, it is time to turn to fall fishing. We have the Mississippi Pool 2 Multi-Species Tournament coming up three weekends from now. It should be an interesting tournament. With Janitor holding a slim six point lead over the three Dogs tied for second place and another seven Dogs within striking distance of second place, it should be an exciting tournament. I have not fished Pool 2, but am looking forward to a new experience.

I have been practicing with a fly rod in an attempt to become proficient enough to make it an alternative tool. Flyboy gave me a couple of smallmouth flies to try and I was successful



in catching a nice 18-inch smallie while on vacation with the family this past month. I am hoping to get on the Mississippi above Elk River a couple of times this fall and see how it goes in a canoe.

I would encourage anyone who has a chance to try that stretch of water this fall to do so. Several guys from the club fished the river between Monticello and Elk River last fall and had a great time.

Sometimes you can turn a problem into a learning that may get you out of difficulty in the future. While on vacation with the family, it seemed I was using more gas than I thought I should be. We had had a lot of rain the first couple of nights, but didn't think anything about it. My boat has an automatic bilge pump in it, so I didn't even think about running the pump manually. It also seemed that it took a long time to get up on plane, but then there were more of us in the boat than normal, so I didn't worry about that either. We had more rain at night toward the end of the week, so on Friday morning, I double checked to make sure the pump was working by turning it on manually. Nothing came out, so I thought all was well, but then I opened the cover to the bilge area.

The bottom of the boat had 10 to 14 inches of water in it and all the wiring at the back was under water. It took a while to find the fuses for the bilge pump, as none were labeled. I used my hand pump (thanks Canadian regulations for requiring one) to pump out some of the water and then went fishing. When I got home, I mapped out the fuse block. No more wondering and searching to figure out which fuse to check. I also rewired the back of the boat cutting out extra wire and making all the splices water tight. The pump turned out to be bad, but I learned that to replace it was fairly simple. The motor and impeller are a self contained insert that is removed from the pump housing by lifting a lever and turning the pump a quarter turn. I also found that the live well pump is identical to the bilge pump and sits just inches away. So rather than carry a spare pump insert, if it ever fails while on the water and is needed to empty the bilge, I can just swap the inserts for the bilge and live well pumps and drain the boat using the live well switch. I don't know if all boats are like this, but knowing how your boat is configured can pay off. If your fuses aren't labeled, I would suggest labeling them before you need to go looking for the one that burned open.

We don't have a speaker lined up for this month, so if someone has something they would like to share with the club, let me know, or bring it and you can be the speaker.

See you Thursday.
Perp

The Wind Cries Alexander

An ultra-windy day awaited the Dogs on the 5th tournament of the year on Lake Alexander. It was a multi-species tournament, but the strong South wind made about half the lake very difficult to fish, if at all. At least much of the good structure on the south shoreline was fishable.

Many fish were caught early in the tournament, with a good number of species coming on live bait off the deep weedline in about 13-14 feet. The largemouth, smallmouth, walleyes, and even some northerns were found in this type of location on the lake. There was not a lot of action up shallow.

In all, there were 9 teams fishing the tournament, and every team "weighed in" a largemouth bass. There were many LM caught by some teams, but the sizes were generally small. However, three 17" LM's were measured. The next common catch were Smallmouth Bass, with 7 teams having one on their scorecards. The biggest smallie was 16.5".

Northerns were fairly common, with some teams catching several, and six of the 9 teams weighed one in. The largest point-fish was a 34" northern caught by Kojak, which is right up there in that 10-11 pound category.

The walleyes were tough and most teams went after them first thing. There were only 3 walleyes caught, with the biggest one a good eating-size of 17", or about 1.8 pounds, that was released.



Nasty Got One

There were no muskies caught during the tournament, although several were seen, and a few may have even been on briefly. The same goes for crappies – none were caught. The rock bass were active though, especially on the crawlers that guys were using for walleyes, but unfortunately they were not on the tourney menu.

The team with the biggest fish won, and that was the team of Fluffy and Kojak, with 4 species, including the biggest pike, and tied for the biggest largemouth. They took first place by a large margin.

The second-place team was Mama's Boy and Nasty Boy, also with 4 species, up to a decent-sized 30-inch northern.



Mama's Northern

The other teams had three species or less, as the challenging weather conditions made the fishing less than ideal.

Alexander the (not-so) Great?

By Fluffee

Kojak and I have probably only fished together 2 or 3 times in the past 7 to 10 years. The last tournament we worked together was for bass on Crystal Lake a number of years back and it was a clinker. When we got paired for the Alexander tournament though, both Kojak and I had no expectations one way or the other.

I wasn't able to pre-fish Alexander, but Kojak arranged to be in the Brainerd area the Friday before the tourney and managed to cop a few hours on the lake with Shatner. How was pre-fishing? In a word or two "white-caps" is what I was told. ShatKo (Shatner-Kojak) did manage to get out of the brunt of the winds by fishing the south side of the lake by Green Island most of the time. This proved to be a big benefit as they hit on a spot that yielded them an apparent bevy of beautiful bronze-backs. A Largemouth or two came out of this stretch of shoreline as well.

So on Tournament Saturday, with the wind down somewhat from the day before but still blowing, we headed to Green Island only to see Shatner and Greenstick already working the run on the weed line. We tucked in about

20 yards behind them and did the same thing. We saw Kirk boat a fish right off the gun and were hoping for the same thing when Kojak suddenly felt something heavy on his line. Sixty seconds later he landed a beautiful set of snail encrusted rain pants (red, size Large).

We started with live bait; Kojak on a crawler, me on a red tail. The shiner wasn't talking to me so I swapped for one of Kojak's crawler harnesses. This turned out to be pivotal for me as every fish I caught that day, save one, came on Kojak's silver bladed worm harness.

We worked the Green Island spot for several hours, boating nothing but Largemouth and an occasional Rock Bass. Yesterday's Smallmouth had disappeared and we were starting to worry that we'd post a zero for this species. An hour into our efforts though, Kojak gets what he thinks is another adolescent Largemouth that surfaces to show itself as a Walleye (14 1/2 inches). Dumb luck of the best kind, and we'll take it. Two species down.

We threw for Pike around the corner and came back to the weedline run we'd been working to use up the rest of our crawlers. I missed something big on one pass but picked up a 17" Largemouth on the next turn which proved to be our largest LM. We felt good about upsizing from the only 14" LM we'd seen for the first hours, and tried to fish for Pike again on the inside of the milfoil weedline we were on. A small 23" Pike took my Vibrax and that made three species. Thinking again about upsizing, two casts later Kojak's spinnerbait gets nailed by a fat Pike that once he coaxed from the weeds that taped out at 34". So far it's not just three species, but also two respectable fish. On to more.

Now we REALLY had Smallies on the brain and it was Kojak at bat again. We took the windward drift over some center lake rock piles and in the first couple minutes my partner pulls up an 11" Bronzeback. And it was on a red tail. Hooray, \$20 worth of minnows catches us an 11" Smallie. OK, it was nothing to write home about, but it did make the minimum qualifier. A few more drifts yielded nothing and we're thinking that we should count our blessings and look for something else. Crappies? 15 minutes of jig work says forget about it.

From here we head east along the south shore and drift worms and say hi to Team Shatner and Team Janitor. Shatner hears of our success with Smallies on the rock pile and buzzes off while I'm netting a 14 ½" Smallie. Upsizing is good. Again, on the silver bladed crawler harness.

It turned out to be a good day for Team Fluf-Ko with plenty of fish and plenty of laughs.

Tight at the Top

There is one tournament remaining on the schedule for this year, and that's the multispecies tournament set for Pool 2 of the Mississippi River on September 18. Right now, The Janitor is out in front of the yearly standings with 62 points, and then there are three Dogs tied for second with 56 points. They are Shatner, Griz and Nasty, and not far behind them is Dr. Meat with 50 points. The last tournament is the annual first-fishes-with-last tournament, so the places at the top are sure to get shaken up as a result. And fishing the river is a lot like a box of chocolate where you never know what you're going to get. Rumor has it that old tires and boots may be allowable species.

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