

# The Dogumentary

30th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

September 2012

## September 6 - Monthly Meeting

The September meeting will feature a speaker that we all know, Tackle Terry Tuma. Terry will talk about how to catch fish in the Mississippi just two days prior to our tournament there. It should be an informative session.

Dinner starts at 6 and Terry talks at 7.

### 2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

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

And be sure to fill out the Banquet sign-up sheet.

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



Many of you know that my other non-fishing hobbies include electronics and Christmas lighting. It was fun this past month to merge a little of that with my love for fishing, and the result was the Cyber-Rap crankbait, complete with a continuously scanning cylon eye. Whether it works or not has yet to be tested, but in creating it, I learned quite a lot about crankbaits. First of all, taking one apart isn't easy – at least the deep-diving Rattlin'-Rap I used as the basis for my Cyber-Rap wasn't. There's quite a bit of technology designed into these little balsa wood lures. For example, the rattle serves two purposes: a weight and the noisemaker. It was a small but heavy, rectangular piece of metal that was housed inside a plastic sleeve and located inside where the lower portion of a fish's gills would be; located there most likely to lower the center of gravity of the lure to aid as a vertical stabilizer, but also to create more mass so that when the lure wobbled from side-to-side, it

would rotate around the heavier mass created by the metal weight. Because I had to hollow-out quite a bit of the lure's body to make room for the electronics, I used a lead bullet weight of about the same size to replace it, thinking that it plus the addition of the coin-size battery might work out about right. At the time of this writing, I haven't yet put the Cyber-Rap into action but we'll give it the full test at the Mega-Trash on Lake Pepin. I'm silently hoping that the cylon eye will scare the fish out of the water and into the boat...

What I gained from this project is a heightened appreciation of the art of bait presentation. The Rapala people don't make their lures haphazardly; if their goal is to produce a lure that can entice a fish to eat it, they take great care to make it right and believable. Translate that to something as simple as slipping a Senko onto a hook in wacky-style: the balance of the head/tail maybe makes a huge difference and where you push the hook through the worm is important to how successfully the worm might work underwater to cause a fish to strike. The same care probably holds true with rigging other lures, like the length and type of blades on a spinnerbait, or the type of trailer you might use, or even the type and weight of line for the type of bait used since some line is more buoyant than others. I have so much to learn in this sport and I am humbled by its complexity. I'm in awe of the abilities of some of our members – Griz, Analist, Shatner, Nasty – to consistently put fish in the boat regardless of the species. Until I become more proficient in my fishing skills, I'm hoping that my Cyber-Rap will make up the difference. See you on the water!

-Greenstick

### **Name That Fish – St Croix Tournament**

The St. Croix River multispecies tournament had something for everybody, as fish of many different types and sizes came to the board. In all, we counted eleven different species that were caught by club members, but oddly, no walleyes or saugers were caught in this supposedly good walleye water.

The day started with some launching challenges, as some boat trailers were too low for the landing and were scraping bottom on

the sharp break at the access. So, several boats opted to run over to Prescott and launch from there.

The tournament was basically won on about the fifth cast of the day for Griz, as he hooked up on a 20.5" smallmouth on the rockpile just outside the boat launch, which turned out to be the highest scoring fish of the day. Griz and his partner Felix also caught the biggest northern of the day at 33", and a largemouth bass to round out their gamefish species at three. For their wild card catch, they got a 21" gar, the first caught by a club member in a tournament.

The second-place team of Shatner and OJ also caught three species, which were largemouth, smallmouth, and white bass, with the largemouth being a really good one for the river at 19". Their white bass was 14.5", which is big for the species and counted for 100 points as the second largest fish of the tournament.



In third was the team of FD and Father Bertha, who got three game species and also six other possible wild card species up to a 24" channel cat. All nine species were caught on a stretch of shoreline just across the river and within sight of the landing. Nightcrawlers were the preferred bait for most of the fish.



It was a good day on the water with light winds and partly cloudy skies, and only a fair degree of boat traffic, probably because it was a weekday. The planned social-drifting lunch was OK to get together, but the ambiance was poor, except for a lone flower in a vase on Shatner's boat, brought to him by his Little Buddy OJ.

### **Cranking on the Croix**

By Felix

James and I had a good tournament day!

Neither of us had fished the stretch of the St Croix identified for the tournament prior to the Saturday before the tournament.

We decided to pre-fish early that day to see what it was about. We went in with some leeches and a few notes from Herm Fasbender. We ran up to the channel and idled through heading for a small spot Herman had spoken of on the Wisconsin side that was supposed to have a few weeds and the possibility of an early Walleye. There was a boat sitting on it.

We moved to the shoreline just to the north of the spot where there was a floating dock, some rip rap, then a small stretch of beach before getting to the point we had initially intended to fish. We caught three species fishing this 200' of shore line; northern, Smallmouth, and a Largemouth. We also had a Muskie follow that morning in the same small area. We had identified what we thought would be our starting spot.

As the day went on we fished a lot of rip rap with limited success and eventually the Pleasure Boat traffic got to us and we decided to leave. Just prior to finishing our casting run on the south side of the no wake channel we ran into a Grandfather fishing with his Grandson. In our conversation he said he fished the area often and on days when there was less boat traffic he did well trolling night crawlers thru the channel; big Walleyes and Smallmouth. We had our second spot identified we thought.

Back at the boat launch we pulled in about 2:00 and there was a crowd of people going in and out and a couple of folks fishing off of the fishing pier. James noticed it first, there were several "balls" of minnows swimming in this shallow lagoon. They were darting apart and it didn't appear as though we were causing it. We decided to give it a few casts, James with a spinner bait and I started with a buzz bait. Nothing. As James was putting away his equipment I tied on a small jig head and white twister tail thinking there may be a Crappie or White Bass chasing these minnows. To my surprise I hooked a much larger fish, a low 30's Northern who gave us a good run and the folks in the landing area some entertainment as we tried to net the fish with a far too small net. We did eventually bring it in. We then realized our earlier plans had changed.

There were other memorable events that morning, an airplane that put on an interesting show for us as well as the steam coming off of the river in the form of small "tornados" when we first got on the water.

Tournament Day we got on the water early and were sitting out on the river with the group not intending to go very far once starting time arrived. We headed back towards the landing, me casting the point and James trolling a leech as we moved that direction. As we got close James switched to a Spinner Bait and on an early cast that was less than perfect hooked into a 20.5" Smallie! What a GREAT start! We continued to fish the outside of the channel and back into the lagoon at the landing finding Bertha and FD as we moved that direction. We caught other smaller SM and one LM that was too short to qualify. Once inside the lagoon we caught a 23" Northern . Two counter Species before 7:30!



We left and went to the channel to try for a Walleye. We trolled nightcrawlers and caught our first Bonus fish, an 8" Sunfish. We caught several of these as well as a few small Smallmouth. No Walleyes.

With much of the morning gone we ran up to the productive spot we had found the previous Saturday and cast it several times with only one Muskie follow to show for our efforts. We headed back to the landing for our lunch gathering. After the flotilla we elected to go back into the lagoon to see if we could find a qualifying Largemouth. Shortly after entering we caught a 31" Northern and, based on the previous week's experience netted it with the large, Muskie net. Stayed in the lagoon looking for the LM with no success. Back out to the main body of water and up to the south side of the island/peninsula to look for a Largemouth. Casting the shallows we caught a 21" Gar and took the required photo as we had done of all of the fish we were fortunate to catch. No LM. With about an hour left in the Tournament we decided to go after the LM back near the landing. We pulled up and started casting the very sparse weed bed to the river side of the channel into the landing. In about the exact same spot where James had caught the great fish that started our day he catches a 13.5" Largemouth at 2:10 pm. We pull into the Lagoon and again cast around until it is time to pull out (carefully on the left side as you looked from the water) of the water.



James and I had two great fishing days for this tournament!!!

### LOTW Stories

#### **BEST TRIP EVER!**

by Janitor

The only record set by this years trip was for low fish count. Yet it ranks as possibly the most enjoyable trip I have had in many years. Here are a few reasons:

\*\*The boat was operable all 7 days. Thanks to Perp for fixing my only challenge-electric motor foot pedal.

\*\*I caught the Buick spirit of exploration. In years past, I have stayed close to home. My small Alumacraft with tiller motor was no match for big water. Then mechanical problems grounded me the first two years with the Ranger. This year, armed with new confidence I experienced the serene waters of Big Narrows, Skeet Island, Tranquil Channel, Quandary Bay, and more.

\*\*We saw fish-lots of fish. Size and numbers. 5 days with double digits numbers of follows. Missed chances and the effects of the warm water cut down on the hook ups. That did not stop the Muskies from getting totally in our heads.

\*\*Other species were hungry. All of my fish were caught on Muskie lures except for the Walleyes which we trolled for. Maybe 3 hours all week. Twice we actually ate fresh fish on this trip.

\*\*Incredible service from the new owners. Jason was great. Met with refrigerator, TV, and Mice issues the first day, he fixed them all immediately. Jason removed 11 truckloads of FLR'S from the grounds last winter.

\*\*There seemed to be more socializing this year within the club. Maybe it was the smaller number of participants or just the situations. I had great fishing partners and we had a great time in the OLD GUYS cabin.

\*\*Looking forward to next year, more than ever.

- Janitor



### 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)	7:00-2:30pm	Multi	St Croix	OF - Janitor
Sep 8	7:16-2:38pm	Multi	Pepin	Suzy - Hillary
Oct 6		Bass	Clearwater	Griz - Nasty

# 2012 WaterDogs Annual Banquet

Thursday, November 1, 2012

5:30 PM Cash Bar  
6:30 PM Dinner and Program

Embassy Suites Hotel  
2800 American Blvd. west  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
952-884-4811

Please use this form to sign up for the annual banquet for yourself, family and any guests, and return to Scott Hennessy by Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Dinner Choices:

### Grilled Salmon\*

Served with a Balsamic Glaze and mashed Potatoes

### Chicken Chandelaise

Sauteed breast with Prosciutto and Mushrooms in a light Zinfandel Sauce

### Pot Roast\*

Slow roasted, served with carrots, potatoes and home made sauce

**Kids Dinner (age 10 and under)**      Chicken Tenders and Fries

\* Gluten free choice

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Waterdog \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Kids/Guests \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Salmon-----\$26.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken-----\$26.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pot Roast-----\$26.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kids Meal-----\$14.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to WaterDogs Fishing Club and bring to banquet.

Bring completed signup sheet to September or October meeting.