

The Dogumentary

22nd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

October 2004

October Meeting

You can vote any way you want in the national election this November, and it may seem to make little difference, but where your vote really hits close to home is in the Waterdogs annual elections, starting with nominations at the October meeting. Up for nomination will be next year's VP, two board members, and the captain and little buddy of the year, along with a host of other leadership positions that you can campaign for. The meeting will be at the now usual Hopkins VFW at 6:00 for dinner, and 7:00 for an interesting business meeting.

The 2004-2005 Waterdog Calendar

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| Oct 7 | Monthly Meeting |
| Oct 10 | Scouts Outing |
| Nov 4 | Annual Banquet |
| Dec 2 | Monthly Meeting |
| Jan 6 | Monthly Meeting |
| Feb 3 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 23-30 2005 | RockNRoll Musky Tour |

Missing Member

The club never got up to our thirty-member roster this year, and we still have an opening for someone who is a lot like you. As of now, there are no indications of anyone leaving, but if you have a good prospect, let VP Doug Squire know about it, so we can try to start out with a full club for the new year.

Tournament Reports:

If There was Fishing on Mars...

It might be a lot like fishing on the Chippewa Flowage. Different from most of the waters that the Dogs fish on, the Flowage offered new kinds of structure and fishing methods that tested the club during the September 11&12 multi-species tournament.

The tournament started out weirdly enough, with the crash of a small plane on the shores of Big Musky Resort, where we stayed. The crash happened about a half-hour before the first Dog, Bag Balm, got there. The float plane was carrying a popular local couple, 'Fly Boy' and his wife, who had bad head and back injuries, but are expected to make full recoveries, as of a check last week. As it turns out, Fly Boy was flying a proto-type plane that he made himself and was buzzing a friends cabin, as he always does, when he crashed. He was back in the bar last week talking about the next plane he will be building. Sounds like an honorary Wieney Award is in order.

The structure in the Flowage is at least unusual, with floating bogs that hung over deep water, and were solid enough to carry large trees on them. There was also a good amount of other floating debris, such as the small mud bog that Bag Balm plowed through and sent churning into the air. The total experience was something in between fishing a lake and a river, with a little bit of science fiction thrown in.



Fishing the Bog for Crappies in 14'

Only twelve Waterdogs attended this team tournament, which meant that any team that caught at least one keeper fish would earn point placings. The event was won by the team of Fishdick and Juan Valdez, who caught three species, including the biggest northern, at 31", and biggest crappie at 10.5". Both fish were caught near one of the deep floating bogs. Second place went to the team of Griz and Mr Meat, who caught the biggest largemouth, a 17-incher. The largemouth that were caught were mostly very shallow in the sloppy weeds, which were everywhere. Third place went to the Leibrock/Nasty Boy team, who caught the only walleye of the tourney, at 16". Fourth was Felix and Bertha, and fifth went to team Bag Balm and Happel. In sixth place was the team of Kojak&Suzy, who only fished half the tournament. They managed to catch one keeper fish, a ten-inch smallie, with 20 minutes to go, that moved them from receiving one point for showing up, to six points for their sixth-place finish. It was the only keeper smallie that was caught by anyone. There were also no muskies caught by the club, although a few were sighted.



Bog Pike - Largest Fish of the Tournament

We look forward to the next time we get to fish the Flowage, perhaps after the next ice age.

Frost on the Punkin' at Clearwater

The two coldest days of the past six months were Waterdog tournament days. The first was the Vermillion tournament where Tower, MN reached 20 degrees the night before our tournament there. The second was this past Saturday, when a massive cold front had the temp at 25 degrees for our 7 am start of the bass tournament on Clearwater Lake. Although the expectations were low for the 16 Dogs in

attendance, the day turned out to be a fair average for a bass tourney, except for winners Nasty Boy and Dr. Meat (aka John Schaffhausen), who set a club record for the number of qualifying bass caught by a boat during a bass tournament with 31 fish. The boys were using 3" and 4" Senko worms in a variety of darker colors, rigged Carolina-style. Casting towards the reed beds from 15', they would stop and fish any school they came in contact with, and pulled most of their fish from just 5 spots. Half-way through the tournament, they graciously shared their method over the radio to the rest of the club, but no one else was able to get the rhythm down quite like they did. In the end, their six best fish each put them well out in front with winning weights of 15.8 lbs. For Dr. Meat, and 15.7 for Nasty. The third through sixth places were all limits of 6 fish separated by less than a half-pound in the mid-11 lb. range. In order of placing third through sixth were Griz, Shorty, Old Fart, and Fishdick, with the tournament big fish of 19" caught by Shorty.



Carmine Dredges Up An 18.5"

2004 Standings:

This year's 7-tournament series ends with Nasty Boy on top with 97 points, Griz in second at 95 points, and Duper in third with 70 points. The three guys moved up early in the year to the top spots, and changed places with each other through the second half of the season, but remained far ahead of the rest of the club. All three guys will get custom rods at the banquet as a prize for their top placing this year. There is still one more event of the season, the Boy Scout fishing outing on Oct 10, that is worth 2 points, and may change the top point totals, as the indication now is that Griz will make the event, while Nasty will not.

President's Corner – Matt Mueller:



This Saturday the tournament season came to a close. I felt it ended much in the way it started. There were a number of similarities between the Clearwater Bass tournament and the Whitewater Trout tournament in March. Both started chilly, though neither as cold as Vermillion I'm told. By day's end nearly every dog had recordable fish. Several had full limits and more. For those who didn't make it, check out Fishdick's write-up, it really turned out to be one of the more productive outings this year.

Despite the fact that we have our winter tournament sabbatical in front of us, there is still plenty of Waterdog business at hand. Please make certain to attend this Thursday's meeting, we have the banquet, and nominations to attend to, candidates for next year's officers positions, and Duper will give us his summary findings from the membership survey. Next month the annual banquet will be held at Biaggi's in Eden Prairie. Kudo's to Janitor and his team for what promises to be a terrific event. There'll be some classic activities and some new ones, a little bit of something for everyone. I hope you all like heavy metal band's and Jaegermeister Luge's. I'm kidding of course, it will be a great event for the whole family.

Start thinking of all those hilarious Weenie moments, fantastic acts of Captaincy, and stellar Swabbie performances. Pictures are a bonus. See you Thursday!

Hooked and Set on Branden Happel

Edited by Suzy



Handle: Brandy (but I'm sure you guys will think of something more creative)

When did you join the club: July 2004

What club committees have you worked on, or leadership positions have you held: Not on any yet, but let me know where we need help and I'll jump right in.

Family (wife, kids, pets, etc.): Jen (wife); Maddie (yellow lab)

Age: 29

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Where you currently live: Columbia Heights

School: University of Northern Iowa

Your job: Senior PR Specialist at RBC Dain Rauscher

Your favorite fishing reel: Shimano Symetre

Your favorite fishing rod: St. Croix

Your favorite fishing lure: Mepps "Giant Killer"

Boat: '88 Four Winns

Truck: Tahoe

Your personal bests:

Musky – Still out there

Northern pike – 12 lbs

Walleye – 6 lbs

Largemouth bass – 7 lbs 6 oz

Smallmouth bass – 5 lbs 2 oz

Trout/salmon – 3 lbs

Carp – Not worth weighing

Fish for which you like to fish the most: Smallmouth and pike

Favorite lake or river on which you like to fish: Big Winnie

Favorite pro angler: Don't know
Your fishing fantasy: Catching a muskie top water at sunset, then kicking back and sipping on a Premium
What turns you on the most: My beautiful spouse and a good fight with a fish
All-time favorite fishing memory: Fishing anywhere with my Grandma as a kid

Favorite fishing magazine: Too many to name

Favorite fishing TV show: Like a bunch

Favorite fishing radio show: KFAN-AM's outdoors show on Thursday night

Best fishing tip you could give to the rest of the Dogs: Look out!

Favorite cut of meat: Tenderloin

Favorite restaurant: Nami

Favorite beverage: Premium Grainbelt

Favorite musical artist or band: Dave Matthews or Willie Nelson

Other hobbies or interests, besides fishing: Hunting, camping, basketball and golf

I like being a Waterdog ...to catch my first muskie, and learn how to improve my skills in catching other species

Rituals or habits you perform to improve your fishing ability: None

Favorite fishing memory with the Dogs: Yet to come...

Word that best describes you: Eager