

# The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

October 2005

## Next Meeting – Thursday October 6

The next meeting will be at the usual spot, the Hopkins VFW, with dinner at 6pm, and the meeting starting at 7.

### The 2005 Waterdog Calendar

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

## President's Corner: Doug Squire



We had another successful year with our tournament series champion decided on our last event. Nasty managed to jump ahead on the pack with a 1st place finish at Mille Lacs. A very respectable tie for second place by Felix and Janitor made for an exciting finish of this year series.

For the 10 guys that participated in the Fantasy Fishing league this year it was close as well. I happened to beat out Old Fart on a tie breaker.

As the fishing season begins to wind down, I still hope to get out a few more times. October is a great time to hit your favorite lake for the fall bite. I did some pre-fishing with Little Angel on the Friday before the muskie tourney on Mille Lacs. This was really my first time fishing muskies on the lake, so I didn't really know what to expect. We hit a few spots on the south end of the lake and managed to have 3 follows during the evening. One of the fish we seen following Scotts lure was in the 50" class. Griz also seen a 50" fish on Saturday when fishing with me, so there seems to be plenty of BIG fish in the lake. After sunset we decided to see how the night bite was going, so we fished for walleyes off Indian Point. The water temp was about 67 degrees so the fish still haven't turned on yet. Scott managed to land a 15" fish, but it was really slow. A few years ago I fished the same point with much better success during the October full moon. We trolled shallow diving shade raps in about 9 feet of water. That night I fished from about 8:00PM to 5:00AM and lost count of the fish we caught. Most were well over the slot limit at the time with our biggest at 27". I hope to make another trip to Mille Lacs this October to see if I can have the same luck. The slot limit is now set at 22" and above must be released, so hopefully I can bring some fish home this year.

At our October meeting we will be taking nominations, and voting on Captain and Swabbie of the year. We also will vote for the famed weenie award for 2005, so bring some of the stories to share with the group. Rumors are rampant that the Weenie is already

decided, but it won't be official until all votes are tallied. Last but not least Water Dog of the year will be voted on as well. See you at the October meeting.

Mamas Boy

### **Buick Breaks Personal Best to win at Mille Lacs**

The sixth and final tournament of the year was the musky/northern tournament held on Mille Lacs Lake on Saturday Sept.17. A total of nineteen Dogs fished the tournament, with a flexible starting location for each team, depending on where they wished to fish. The wind was blowing hard from the South, and after checking at the pay access at Waukon Bay, all the teams decided to put in at Cove Bay, which was less of a hassle and cost. The fishing was relatively slow, with a total of 19 fish caught by 19 guys. The winning team was Buick and Nasty Boy, with a four-fish string of northerns capped off by a 44-incher caught by Buick. It was the largest northern that Buick has ever caught, and the largest northern ever caught in club history, including the Lake of the Woods trips. Buick caught the 44", and also a 36", on a Fat Boy crankbait in Isle Bay fairly early in the day. More details on the winning methods will be had at the meeting. In second place was the team of Old Fart and Chips, also with four northerns up to a nice fish of 37". In third was The Janitor and Dr Meat, who also caught four northerns and had two big muskies on, but lost them. In fourth place was Mama's Boy and Griz, and in fifth was the team of OJ and Suzy. Rounding out the top six teams were the three-man team of Miller, Juan and Fishdick. It was a fair day for most, a great day for a few, and a tough day for some.



**Buick and his New Friend - Fat Boy**

### **Nasty Captures Tournament Series Win Again**

The Nasty Boy Paul Johnson won the tournament series for the second year in-a-row with his co-win at the Mille Lacs tournament. Nasty has now placed in the top 3 for the past four years by being consistent in his participation and skill. He was part of the winning team at two tournaments this year, same as he was last year. In second place for the season were Dave Anderson and Bob Blakely, who tied for points at 69, compared to Nasty's 78 for the year. All three guys fished all six tournaments, as did a total of six Dogs, who all finished in the top seven spots for the year. Last year, six guys also fished all the tournaments. The top three guys will all receive custom-made rods from Thorne Brothers at the banquet.

### **The Tournament Year in Review**

This past year saw a few changes to the tournament series, and now is the time to express your opinion as to whether we should continue the new trends into next year. All the tournaments were team competitions in 2005, and there were six tournaments this year, compared to 7 in 2004. There was an average of 20.3 guys attending the tournaments for both years. This year had a low attendance of 16 for the rescheduled trout tourney, to a high of 26 for crappies at Prior Lake. Did you like the format this year, or would you wish to change things around. Come to the October meeting set to discuss the tournament year in more detail.

## Dear Suzy



Your burning questions are answered.

By Suzy Dupont

**Dear Suzy:** How can I beat Nasty during next year's tournament series? Frustrated in Burnsville

**Dear Frustrated:** Short of attempting to be his partner during every tournament, or tailpiping his boat to learn his secrets to fishing the Senko, follow Nasty's own advice: participate in every event that offers points, pre-fish like crazy, maintain a positive attitude, and ask Father Bertha for a blessing or two.

**Dear Suzy:** How does a Dog become the chair of a committee? I'm a relatively new guy and would like to know how I could be the chair of a committee. Bashful

**Dear Bashful:** Mention your desire to chair a committee to the incoming president (Steve "Farm Boy" Haagenson will be president in 2006), who selects the incoming chairs each year as he forms committees. A good place to start is volunteering for the seminar committee.

**Dear Suzy:** I don't own a boat, but I would really like to pre-fish more often next year. Is it kosher to ask one of the tournament leader captains to go pre-fishing, even if I'm not partnered to be with one of them for an upcoming tournament? Pre-Fishing Blues

**Dear Blue:** I put this question to Nasty, a captain and perennial tournament leader (and winner). He said, "just call or e-mail me." I'll add I approached Nasty and Fishdick about pre-fishing the St. Louis River (they were partners) and they let me join them. It was a great day of fellowship (but few fish, unfortunately). Because we seem to be drifting to a team format for all tournaments, I would

first check with your partner, so you can strategize for the tournament. But, I would not hesitate to call other Dogs and invite them to go pre-fishing if you have the time to get out more than once before a tournament. Same applies to captains asking other captains...

**Dear Suzy:** I have too many commitments for the coming year, so my participation in the club next year is questionable. What should I do? AWOL in Iowa

**Dear AWOL:** Andy Warhol once said, "90% of life is just showing up."

Despite your best intentions, life's other priorities may distract you from meeting the expectations that the club needs to be vibrant and fun. As you look ahead into the coming year, if it is likely that you won't be able to meet the club's expected participation level (at least 50% of all meetings and tournaments), it is respectful to the club and fellow members to bow out of the club to give those on our waiting list a shot at being active members. Keep this in mind -- for many of us, it took a former club member to bow out for us to join.

That's also why those with less than desired participation throughout the past year are contacted by the incoming president at the end of the year to see if the circumstances that prevented participation this year are expected to continue into next year.

Remember, past Waterdogs have been readmitted to the club even when that has put us over 30 members (an exception we make for past members). Due to our 30-member limit, if you stay in the club and don't participate, that means someone on our waiting list does not have the opportunity to participate and the club is denied the ability to have well attended events.

By the way, if a short-term family, work or health emergency comes up that you know may take you away from the club for a portion of the year, let the president know and ask for a "waiver," stating your intention to fully participate once the short-term emergency subsides. Depending upon the time of year, this at least gives the president the option of extending an invitation to a prospective

member to join, while still maintaining your spot.

### **The Top Dogs Spill Their Guts**

Nasty Boy, Felix and Janitor Reveal Their Secrets to Finishing on Top in the Waterdog's 2005 Tournament Series  
An Interview by Suzy

**Q: So you finished in the top three. What do you think gave you the extra edge to beat out the rest of us Dogs?**

**Nasty:** (Who finished in 1st place) Participation!!!! If you look at the standings, the top Dogs have always participated in all of the events. Be willing to try different methods, especially when fishing is slow.

**Felix:** (Tied for 2nd with Janitor) Participation and luck.

**Janitor:** The positive attitudes of my partners. When fishing was slow (most tournaments) their willingness to fish hard and suggest new locations and tactics kept me going to the finish.

**Q: What was your best tournament and why?**

**Nasty:** The trout tournament. My schedule allowed me to pre fish several times. I caught a lot of trout every time I went out, including tournament day.

**Felix:** Minnetonka. Chips and I were fortunate to find fish shortly after the storm passed over us and not very far from the landing.

**Janitor:** Janitor didn't respond to this question, but there's no doubt that Janitor had a lot of fun hauling in a huge smallie during the Minnetonka tournament. Where and how you may ask? Talk to Carmen, his partner for that tournament.

**Q: How important was the team tournament format to your success this year? Should we repeat in in 2006?**

**Nasty:** I probably would not have been in the top three if we didn't have the team format this year. I struggled catching fish on several tournaments but was able to keep my "Netter" on fish. I personally like having a couple of team tournaments and a couple of individual tournaments.

**Felix:** I enjoyed this system and hope we can keep it for at least half of the tournaments if not all.

**Janitor:** I loved the team concept this year. It would be difficult to go back to the individual

competitor system. I do not like competing against someone in my boat.

**Q: You're all captains. Do you think captains have an extra edge over little buddies in the tournament series?**

**Nasty:** My two wins in 2005 did not involve being a captain. I was a swab on Mille Lacs and the trout tournament didn't have captains vs. swabs.

**Felix:** No. I think the advantage the captain has bass and musky/northern tournaments (because he is in front of the boat and has the first opportunity to cast to specific spots) is balanced by the attention the captain must pay to maneuver the boat. If the weather is inclement (i.e. WINDY), I would say the captain is at a disadvantage.

**Janitor:** No advantage. I think the more important common denominators are participation(all tournaments), pre-fishing, and fishing hard.

**Q: What's your go-to fishing lure -- the one you can always count on?**

**Nasty:** This is dependent on the fish species. Trout: black Panther Martin. Crappie: small Uncle Bucks Crappie Bug. Walleye: three-hook worm harness. Bass: Senko, but my bass at the tournaments this year were all caught on white spinner baits. Muskies: Black & silver/orange bucktails however, Buick and I caught all of our fish on wood during the Mille Lacs tournament.

**Felix:** Jig head and white twister tail for trout or crappie or anything if the bite is slow. Scum Frog for Bass. Spinner Bait for Northern or Musky (Orange Blade and Black haired Slopmaster has taken over from Mr. Shumway for Musky although Mr. Shumway is not too deep in the box).

**Janitor:** Nothing beats crawlers on a spinning rig on the deep weed edge for multi-species.

**Q: What's your go-to rod and reel -- the combo that you can always count on?**

**Nasty:** I don't have a single go-to rod and reel. Rather I carry different set ups with different action and line weights. This allows me to adjust to the bite. The Waterdog rods we have made at Thorne Brothers are sweet. Those are my favorites.

**Felix:** Ambassadeur 5500C3 with a 7' Medium/Heavy rod and Power Pro line. Works the best with Scum Frogs. The line is important!

**Janitor:** I use standard equipment -- 6' spinning rods w/ Shimano reels for live bait; 6'6" baitcasters w/ Garcia 5500's for bass; and 7'3" rods for muskies with Garcia 6500's. TUF LINE on all baitcasters is a must.

**Q: What do you do to prepare for a tournament? For example, do you always pre-fish, if so, how much time will you put into pre-fishing?**

**Nasty:** I always try to pre-fish. What better excuse to get out fishing and be with friends. I don't restrict my pre-fishing to just my partner. I use pre-fishing to rule out water as much as to find spots. This year, when I pre fished Rush Lake, I spent time just boating around looking at spots where other tournament fishermen were going.

**Felix:** Will occasionally pre-fish. I prepare by studying my map and paying attention to the weather forecast. I prepare rods with confidence baits. I have a good idea of where I want to start and perhaps two other locations to try. I don't need to run all over a large body of water.

**Janitor:** Pre-fishing has always helped me, especially on unfamiliar lakes. I like to bring a minimum of tackle. Only that which is specific to the tournament. Five extra rods and three extra tackle boxes take up all the room in my little boat.

**Q: What do you do when you're in the middle of a tournament and the fishing stinks? How do you turn things around?**

**Nasty:** Keep trying different things. I also watch what my partner is using and I use something else until we catch something. Fluffee won the walleye tournament this year by increasing his trolling speed to get aggressive bites.

**Felix:** Try a different bait, usually smaller. Jig head and white twister tail has caught everything for me including a small musky on Orchard Lake a couple of years ago. Go slower. Go deeper.

**Janitor:** I think my partners turned me into a "Grinder" this year and it paid off. As long as

you fish methods and locations in which you have confidence, you just have to keep working and hoping for the bite.

**Q: Do you have any habits or rituals that you must do before you hit the water for a tournament?**

**Nasty:** Get positive. At the Clearwater bass tournament two years ago, we were at the landing and Shorty announced that "with this weather we are not going to catch anything." I went in confident and thought we were going to have a great day. That turned out to be the tournament Dr. Meat won and I was second. That's the tournament we caught 30-50 bass.

**Felix:** Not really. I always top off my battery charge and check the boat before each tournament.

**Q: If you could pick just one lake or river that the club should consider fishing next year, which one would you pick and for what species?**

**Nasty:** I like changing lakes annually. In fact, I don't think the Waterdogs should fish the same lake with the same format two years in a row.

**Felix:** I like fishing our Friday tournaments on Minnetonka and could see us doing that every year. It could either be a Bass or Multi-species tournament.

**Janitor:** Minnetonka is the greatest multi-species lake in the area. With its close location, it is no wonder we always have great participation. I never get tired of fishing Tonka.

**Q: How do you predict you'll finish in next year's tournament series?**

**Nasty:** Top three is what I shoot for every year. I am able to fish as long as I can get dates on our calendar early.

**Felix:** I will try hard, have fun, and, hopefully, learn some new things!

**Janitor:** I would like to have the chance to finish in the top 3 going in to the final tournament. As we all know, sometimes you get the bite, and sometimes you do not.