

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

October 2007

Next Meeting back at VFW

Same time, same place, but we are still uncertain as to what to do about dinner at the VFW. Watch your e-mail for information. The meeting will start at 7pm on Thursday October 4, and will feature a talk by Dave Skoog, a Minnesota tournament fisherman, guide, and writer. Dave will be discussing the coming election and which candidate will be better for the fish. Or maybe he will be talking about just the fish, and leave the politics out of it. We left the topic open for Dave, so come ready to ask questions.

The 2007-2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Nov 1	Annual Banquet!
Dec 6	Monthly Meeting—All Members
Jan 4	Monthly Meeting
Feb 1	Monthly Meeting
Mar 7	Monthly Meeting
July 19-26	Rock&Roll Musky Tour

Frost on the Punkin' at Northern/Musky Tournament

What do you get when the weather is at an extreme, say a record cold day of 34 degrees in mid-September? How about a Waterdogs Tournament? Actually, the weather service could do itself a favor if they kept track of our tournament schedule, so they would know when to expect some unusual weather.



A Cold and Foggy Start to Tourney #6

Yes, the 34-degree morning beat the previous record for the day by two degrees, and with the cold front, it was hard for the Waterdogs to come up with any record fish, too. In all, there were 18 Dogs fishing the tournament, and there were only 20 qualifying fish caught, which included 17 northern and 3 muskies. A slow bite and nippy temps made the early going difficult, but it did warm up to 50 after the sun rose, and ended up being a comfortable day.

Three lakes were open as tournament waters, but by the end of the day, all the teams were on Minnetonka, where the fishing was just as slow as everywhere else, I'm sure. It was a nice day to enjoy the scenic and large shacks while trolling for slimers in a Ranger bass boat, although some teams resorted to the even less productive method of casting.



Laun Brings a Musky to the Hammer and Hair Spinnerbait

The tournament was won by the team of Janitor and Chainsaw, who trawled up 4 northern from 21.5" to 27.5" for first place. Other notable fish were the a 32" northern for Griz, which was the largest point-scoring fish of the tournament, and a 31.5" musky for Juan, which was the largest of the 3 muskies boated. After the tournament, an enjoyable lunch was served at the Minnetonka west-side landing, compliments of the food committee.



Fishermen Enjoying the Post-Tournament Spread

Janitor Pulls Off Tournament Series Win

In one of the closest tournament series races ever, Bob Blakely was on the winning team on the last tournament of the year to ice the first-place spot for the year. In all, The Janitor was on a first place team twice, both at the northern/musky tournament and also the trout tournament. He was the only one in the club to be on a first-place team twice this year, and finished with 76 points. Way to go, Janitor!



The Janitor Enjoys a Little Trout Action

The rest of the field was close together in points, with less than 10 points separating places 2 through 7. This was a lot different from previous years, when a few guys ran away with the top spots starting early in the year. In second this year was FD with 64 points, and in third was Nasty with 60 points. There were six guys in the 50 points range, and another four in the 40's. The top three finishers will be presented with rods at the annual banquet inscribed with their tournament series win.

It was also a year when the tournament attendance dropped off from previous years, even though there were only six tournaments, compared to 7 in 2006. There was also just one overnight tournament, compared to two in 2006, and yet for a variety of reasons, the participation dropped off. Here are the numbers for the year:

Most attended: Crappies 27
 Least attended: WI Trout 16

Average attendance: 19.8 for 6 tourneys
 2006 average 21.8 for 7 tourneys

2007 Number of Tournaments Made By Dogs:

# Made	# Dogs
6	5
5	10
4	3
3	5
2	7

Average tourneys made: 3.9 of 6 total
 Last year: 5.1 of 7 total

Most unusual this year was the fact that 7 guys only made 2 of the tournaments. Next year's tournament committee will be challenged to figure out why the attendance fell off, and what they can do to boost it up again for next year.

25th Anniversary Party a Great Success!

The Waterdogs 25th Anniversary party was a smash hit, with many former and current Dogs and their families showing up for an evening of seeing old friends and catching up on old times. In all, there were 17 former members, and 22 current members and about 15 other family members at the Bryant Lake Pavilion. It was great to have both club founders, Scott Beaty and Ted Gwinn get up and talk about the early days of the club.



The Pavilion was a Great Reunion Meeting Place

There was plenty of food for all, cooked up by Laun and the food committee, and a fun slide show put together by Scott Squire. Way to go to Steve Haagenson for coming up with the idea and seeing it through to the end, and also thanks to Brian Karsjens for all his hard work of organizing the search for our nearly 100 former members. Many others also helped with making the Anniversary party a great event, and showed how we can make an idea pan out big time when everyone pitches in. Plans are now being made for the 50th Anniversary party, or maybe we'll do another similar event way before then!



Past and Current Club Members Mingle at the 25th Anniversary Bash