

The Dogumentary

26th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

October 2008

October Meeting back to Hopkins VFW

We're back into our old digs for the October meeting on Thursday the 2nd. The meeting speaker will be our own Greenstick Dave Haberle, who will treat us all to his accumulation of 2008 videos that he has taken at club events. The videos are too long for the banquet, so we get to enjoy seeing the antics by ourselves this time.

The business agenda will include voting for Waterdog of the year, which will be presented at the banquet in November. Nominations will also be taken for the 2009 VP (and 2010 president), and also for the board positions, which are voted on by the club members at the December meeting.

The upcoming banquet will also be discussed in detail. The date of the banquet is Thursday, November 6 at the Sunshine Factory restaurant in New Hope. Mark your calendars now for this event!

2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Oct 2	Monthly Meeting
Oct 11	SM Bass Tourney
Nov 6	Annual Banquet
Dec 4	Monthly Meeting
July 18-25	2009 RockNRoll Musky Tour

The 2008 tournament details are on the last page of the Dogumentary

A Little Less Than a Year Until LOTW
Start Dropping those Musky Fishing Gift Hints to the Family



From the Desk of the President, Little Angel

We had a Waterdog Board meeting last Thursday and I would like to bring the club up to date on some of the issues covered.

- **Trout Tournament scoring.** The new formula for lengths which was discussed earlier this year will now be the one we will use on future trout tournaments.
- **Dues for members.** We felt the current \$75.00 dues will be adequate to handle the yearly Waterdog club costs. We are still going to review this with O/F to see if he feels the same.
- **Waterdog of the year.** We nominated 3 dogs for Waterdog of the year. We will be voting on these at our October meeting. Also, keep in mind for the October meeting, nominations for club VP, Little Buddy of the year, Captain of the year and let's not forget Weenie of the year.
- **3-man boat.** We will have a discussion at our next meeting on the best way to handle and score three man boat(s) for next year.
- **Use of e-mail.** Political information should not be sent or forwarded (either snail mail or e-mail) to other dogs. This can be very personal to people and we all

certainly see enough political information coming from other media sources.

- **Flowers or donations** for dog's who have experienced a death or serious illness among family members. It might be a good idea to create consistent guidelines for the club to follow. If anyone has any other thoughts or suggestions please let me know.

We will see everyone at the **VFW** at the next meeting.
Little Angel

Analist Goes 3-for-3 with Mille Lacs Win

Since the Analist, Mark Bystrom, rejoined the club early this year, he has been on the winning team in every tournament that he has fished. Even though he missed the Sylvia bass tournament, placing first for the trout, Green Lake and the Mille Lacs tournaments has allowed him to retain the points to stay in first place for the year, with one tournament to go. Way to go Analist! Sorry, but we have no picks from the winning team, as their camera went 'Shorty' on them, but we have plenty of others:



Fogmouth Bass



Wet and Slimy and Sticky



Largest Pike – 35”

The day of the Mille Lacs tournament began with a forecast of calm water and overcast skies for the day, and that's how it started out – very comfortable. But, as Dog-Luck would have it, a front blew in from the north around 10 am, and whipped the lake up pretty good into a rainy and windy mess by quitting time. Since most everyone had put in on the south end of the lake, the rides back to the access sites were some real soakers for the 10 teams.



Largest Largemouth – 18.5”



Shatner Catches the Only Crappie in the Lake



Helen Loves Them Basses!



Perp with a Pre-Rain Smallie

Mille Lacs is a good all-around lake where you may even tangle with a musky, but none were caught during this year's tournament. Next time, we will warn the weatherman ahead of time to expect a change in the forecast come tournament day.

The fishing was tough, too, with most teams scratching out just a few fish of the qualifying species and sizes to make the score sheets. Analist and Griz won the event with four species, a smallie, largemouth, bluegill, and a big-fish tying walleye of 26.5”. The second place team of Shatner and Suzy also had 4 species, with third place going to team Nasty-Farm Boy with three species and the other tournament largest fish, a 19” smallie. All the other teams had two species or less. The specie totals caught and ‘weighed in’, counting just one of each specie per team, were as follows:

Largemouth	7
Smallmouth	5
Northerns	3
Bluegills	3
Walleyes	2
Crappies	1



**‘About a 30-Incher’
(Largest Smallie – 19”)**

The Winning Mille Lacs Fishing Strategy

By: The Analyst

Friday September 12, 2008

To prepare for the tournament a little pre-fishing was in order. Due to work conflicts Griz was unable to make it up early on Friday. I was on my own. My wife's uncle has a lake place on Malone Island in Isle bay so I had a number of places to try. While he hadn't been fishing for several weeks, his top picks were as follows (this was the hit list I put together before hand):

Walleyes- 1) Southern tip of Hawkbill, look for Buoys. 13' of water. 2) NW corner of Malone Island. 3) Hennepin Island – (south side sand, can use lindy rigs). 4) Spider Island also good. 5) The Tundra, approx ¾ mile NW of Spider Island. Bottom ranges from 10-20 feet. Troll with Shad Raps.

Smallmouth- Bridge to Malone Island is good SM spot. Drag a night crawler. 17-20' of H2O. In early morning. 2) NW corner of Malone Island.

Largemouth- Weed flat in front of Father Hennepin Park. On top of flat.

Sunfish-Weed flat in front of Father Hennepin Park. On top of flat-anchor in about 9' of water. Use small piece of crawler.

Pike/Muskie- Large weed flat in front of Father Hennepin Park. Start in front of DNR building (old log building) and troll towards main lake. Break is at 9'.

With the exception of the Tundra and Spider Island I tried all the above locations. In addition, I spent some time fishing Macs Twin Bay as this is the location I caught my very first Muskie nearly 20 years ago with Todd Bollig (Larry Bollig's son). While walleyes were closed mouthed, I caught a fat 17" Smallie off Malone Island. I found good cabbage in Macs Twin Bays and some scattered cabbage along the steep break line in Isle. These appeared to be the best spots to try initially.

After supping on steak and crab at the buffet, Griz and I spent about 30 minutes looking over maps and coming up with a strategy. Our plan was to try for a Smallie at the bridge on the East side of Malone 1st thing as it was closest to the landing we chose. We would then head to the reef on the NW side of Malone for Smallies or Wallies. After bagging these two species (or so our plan went) we would try a jig and sucker minnow along the cabbage breaks for pike or Muskie. Our final stop would be to try for panfish...somewhere.

Saturday September 13, 2008

Per our plan we started off at the Malone Bridge. We were using live bait and lindy rigs. Griz was rewarded with a 14 inch or so LM Bass—a nice surprise. We spent about 20 minutes fishing here, but nothing going. We headed north through the channel and started fishing the weeds along the way. I was using my "go to" white spinner bait while Griz was rigging one of his 10 fishing rods (we had 16 total). I had made probably 15-20 casts with nothing to show. On his very first cast Griz pitches a Senko to the weed edge and I hear "there's one". Another decent LM. I quickly retired my spinner bait (possibly forever) and rigged up my new go to bait—a Senko. Over the next 15 minutes we probably caught 6-8 LM bass, the best being a 16 ½ inch. We agreed it was time to move on.

Over the next several hours we tried many places and many techniques—to no avail. We tried a bit of everything—trolling cranks, casting cranks and leech tipped jigs on top of the rock reefs, live bait rigging the deep water reefs, and trolling jig and sucker minnows along the deep weed edge in Isle, we even tried slip bobbers for crappies in the deep channel in Isle. No go. It was time to head to Macs Twin Bay to check out the cabbage.

My go-to bait for pike is a yellow jig and sucker minnow snap jigged along a deep weed edge. We had no sooner started trolling and I hooked up. The fish fought well and by the looks of it behind the boat we expected a 30-something Muskie. We were both pleasantly surprised when we netted the 26 ½ inch Walleye! Coincidentally, the fish hit at the exact moment one of the Dog's asked "is anyone catching anything". Griz and I had a little laugh on that one.

With 2 hours to go and 2 decent fish on the card both Griz and I were feeling pretty good about being in the top 3 places. But Griz--the data guy--stated that "based upon past tournaments the statistical odds of winning the tournament with less than 4 fish is a remote possibility. In other words a statistical outlier. We need 4 fish." Who was I to argue with that knowledge.

With time running out we discussed what we should try for. We had both noticed several Dog boats hitting the docs around the marina in Macs Twin Bay. We both decided it was time to go for the little uns and go for the bonus points.

After culling several small sunfish, Griz pulled in a 7 ½ incher. We were feeling a little better, but still wanted to try for a crappie. We noticed an older guy in a yellow rain suit standing on the docks fishing between the boats. We suspected he was crappie fishing so we headed over there. No sooner do we get near when he pulls up a decent crappie (9 inches or so). We explained to him our situation and he immediately began to tell us exactly what he was using and even offered us some of his crappie minnows! We said thanks, but told him we had some already.

Although we tied up to the docks right next to him, we couldn't buy a crappie—he didn't catch anymore either. After an excruciating 45 minutes of pitching jigs (and removing Griz's lures from the nearby wooden posts) it was time to head back towards the landing and try the bridge for a Smallie one last time. As I was pulling away from the docks Griz pitched his bobber to the end of one of the docks and caught a 10" Smallie. While the fish was only worth 15 points, the bonus points brought us another 25. We were outliers no more.

Per our plan we tried one last time under the Malone Bridge, but Nada. With our card filled out it was time to head back to the casino. As the results show that little Smallie was just enough to help us edge out team Shatner & Suzie. I learned that in multi-species tournaments that even the little ones can make a difference.

The September Meeting/Outing

In a first for the club, the September meeting was held as a fishing outing on Lake Minnetonka instead of our usual meeting at the VFW. Members paired up on their own, and fished for whatever and whenever they wanted. Most then met up at the Maxwell Bay landing at sundown for a little group chatter.

There were 23 guys at the outing, which included 16 current Waterdogs, 5 former Dogs and 2 friends of Dogs. Guys showed up anytime between 1:00 and 4:30, and fished until sundown.

Everyone fished for whatever species they cared to, and a number of good fish were caught. The highlights included 31 largemouth bass caught by Little Angel and his friend and guide Larry Hansen, who talked to the club about Sylvia bass at the June meeting. They used small sucker minnows on lindy-type rigs in 20-25 feet of water to find the bass.

Fluffy and Carmen were heard, but not seen, as they put in at Gray's bay, with Fluff fishing with his son earlier in the day, and Carmen later. Apparently, Fluffy lost a mid-40's musky off hardscrabble point that bit a vibrax.

Most everybody was able to catch some largemouth bass, although no true pigs were seen, and there were also plenty of hammer-handle pike to be had if you threw a spinnerbait in the shallow milfoil. But probably the highlight of the event were muskies caught by the Perp, Brian Karsjens, and Farm Boy Steve Haagenon. Brian's musky was a 37.5" that bit on a black and silver M&G spinnerbait. FB had just switched from musky gear to bass gear, and then caught his 36" musky on a chartreuse spinnerbait.



Farm Boy with his net man, Father Bertha



Kirk with a 21.5 from Auburn



Perp with his net man, Father Bertha

Carver County Continues to Put Out

For those bass anglers who don't ever quit, the Carver County lakes are continuing to put out quality largemouth if you would like to wander over there for a little peaceful action. The familiar lakes are still working, along with some new lake names, like Reitz, a smaller lake just south of highway 5 and Waconia. Here's a 20.5" largemouth that Greenstick pulled out from under 'FD's dock' on the lake using a jig-and-pig.



The 20's are Still There in Carver County

The Boat Dock-tor

It's that time of year again...well actually when you own a boat, it seems like it's always time for a little boat repair. You may always take your boat in for repair, but the older your boat gets, the more there are little things that crop up that you have to take care of yourself. We will periodically have a few good boat maintenance ideas in the Dogumentary that you can use to help keep your fishing more trouble-free.

Our first idea comes from the Mr. Fixer himself, Southern Man Chris Covert. Long ago, Chris told me that when you are disassembling something for cleaning or repairing, take lots of close-up digital photos as you proceed. Then, when it comes time to put it all back together, you can display the images on your laptop and clearly see where everything belongs. The cost to do this is free, and can save you lots of time and frustration.

Water is the enemy – of your electrical equipment. Corrosion and bad connections are one of the main reasons why many things stop working. Whenever you are installing, connecting or plugging something in, coat the contacts with a thin coating of grease to seal them from the elements. One of the easiest and cleanest ways to do this is to paint on the grease with a small paintbrush, which avoids a lot of that gloppy mess when you use your fingers.

'Maintenance Free' isn't free. I had a MinnKota trolling motor battery that had the words 'Maintenance Free' in big yellow letters on the top of the battery, so what does that mean? I

took it to mean that I never had to add water to it, as it was probably be a sealed system, but in reality it was just another lead-acid battery. It took three years of use to boil it dry, so it wasn't a total loss, but did teach me

a good lesson. I now have only regular lead-acid batteries that I know require regular attention, so I can then take care of them properly.

2008 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Lake	Dogs in Charge
✓3/15	Trout	WI Streams	Helen, Perp
✓5/3 Cancelled	Crappie	Pokegama by Pine City	Griz, Banana Boy
✓5/31	Walleye/SM	Green Lake (Spicer)	Farm Boy, Bud
✓6/20	Bass	Sylvia by Annandale	Lil Angel, Chips, Fluffy
✓9/13	Multi	Mille Lacs	Mama's, Greenstick, Otis
10/11	SM Bass	Rum River	Suzy