

The Dogumentary

27th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

October 2009

October Meeting at Hopkins VFW

The October 3 meeting will be held in the clean-air environment of the Hopkins VFW. The meeting starts at 7, with members gathering for dinner starting at 6. The menu will feature items that are high in tasty trans-fats.

2009 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Oct 1	Monthly Meeting
Nov 5	Banquet!
Dec 3	Monthly Meeting

See the last page for 2009 Tourney Details

The October meeting will include nominating and voting for next year's officers and the various banquet awards. Give some thought to who may be qualified for the following positions:

Banquet Awards:

- Waterdog of the Year (Board Picks)
- Captain of the Year
- Swab of the Year
- Weenie of the Year

And nominating for December Election:

- Vice President
- Board Members
- Committee Chairs and Volunteers

From the Desk of the President, 'Helen' Tom Keller



As you might have guessed, we'll be meeting at the Hopkins VFW with dinner at 6 pm and the meeting at 7 pm.

We have nominations and Waterdog of the Year voting to take care of this month. I also encourage everyone to start thinking about what committees you'd like to participate on next year. Knowing Perp, and his "early management" skills, he'll be asking soon. Last but not least, it's not too early to start thinking about tournament locations for next year. I got a great recommendation; Washington Lake for Crappies, what you guy's think?

The tournament season is over and its first year since I've been in the club that we didn't get rained on during a tournament. It went so quickly and with the weather so nice, it seems like we have another 3 months to fish. I got to say the weather committee did a great job this year and they deserve to be nominated for something.

Congratulations to Kirk Duholm and Kevin Miller for the win on Minnetonka. Kirk pretty much dominated the season, by averaging 14 points a tournament, a 4 full points more than anyone else. I am looking forward to hearing Kirk's and Kevin's story at our next meeting.

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Minnetonka Mania

Captain Kirk Finishes Strong

The last tournament of the year turned out to be a great day of fishing on Lake Minnetonka, with the September temperature approaching 80, and little wind, to make the boat control very easy. Twenty-Six Waterdogs fished the tournament on a Saturday and did battle with the pleasure craft and another major bass tournament for the hot fishing spots. The only thorn in the day were the constant boat wakes that tested your balance while standing and casting. Otherwise, it was a great day to be out on the water.

The fishing was hot to start, with many teams catching some of their best fish early, but after noon, the bite slowed considerably. The largemouth seemed to come easily, with many teams catching several up to 20", caught by Shorty. Sunnies and bluegills were also easy to catch, but after that, the other species took a lot more work to find. Out of seven species on the menu, all but were caught, except for muskies. Several muskies were seen, and a few were on for short periods, but none made it to the mats.

Each team counted their largest fish of each specie, so with 12 teams, that's how many of each specie could be counted. Here's the breakdown of the species caught during the tournament:

Number Counted of 12 Possible:

Largemouth	12
Sunnies	11
Crappies	5
Smallmouth	3
Northerns	3
Walleyes	1

At the end, it was Team Shatner and Bud that came in first, as the only team with 5 species. Their story follows.

The second-place finishers were Perp and Banana Boy with just 3 species, but big ones, including the highest-counting fish of the tournament, a 20.5" Smallie.

In third was the team of FD and Little Angel, also with just 3 species, but the two bass species were heavy counters.

Fourth went to The Janitor and Spanky with 4 species, and Fifth was Dr. Sticky and Griz, also with 4 species.

Rounding out the top six was the 3-man team of Kojak, Nasty, and Juan, with 3 species.



Winning Teams Confessions:

Go East

By Shatner

Bud and I chose to fish the eastern bays of Minnetonka for the Multiple Species event this year in spite of the 25 minute trip down the lake. We did this for several reasons:

- 1) We felt it had the best chance for Walleyes and SM.
- 2) We had some prefishing success there.

3) We were most familiar with that part of the lake.

Our plan was to first fish the rocky shoreline between Robinson Bay and Carson's Bay where we had caught and seen a number of SM while prefishing. Within the first 20-30 minutes we had 3 qualifying species. A 14 SM, 17 LM and a 21 inch northern in addition to a number of other smaller SM and LM. The bass came on a small white buzz bait worked over the rocks between shore and the inner weedline. Bud got the northern by throwing a minnow and bobber near a dock in an attempt for a SM. After a few more small bass we were off to chase down a crappie.

The small white buzz bait has become my go to bait the last couple of years. It has worked well on both SM and LM as well as pike. A couple of muskies also followed it on Minnetonka. My guess it is not as intimidating to a fish as the larger versions may be. This bait also allows you to cover a much larger area real fast even in very weedy conditions. Because of its light weight I have fished it with a medium action spinning rod and about 14lb test Fireline.



Just before we moved on we met Janitor and Spanky coming out of Robinson Bay. They shared their success that included a walleye and we shared our success on SM. After the usual bantering we traded 2 buzz baits and some SM info for some nightcrawlers and walleye information before moving on.

Our next stop was in the eastern part of Wayzata Bay just outside the slow zone that heads into Grays Bay. We had found a very large school of crappies here in 25-30 fow

while prefishing. They showed up on the graph as a cloud from about 5 ft below the surface all the way to the bottom and extended out for about 50 yards. The sunfish were also mixed in with the crappies. After about 30 minutes of nonstop action we left with a 9.5 crappie and a 7.0 sunfish bringing our species count to 5. The crappies came on a small white jig with a white 1.5 inch Power Bait Micro twister tail. We added a larger split shot about 10 inches above the jig to get our baits to sink faster in the deep water.

We then fished bass for a few minutes in Wayzata before spending the next couple hours looking for a walleye. We trolled leeches and crawlers in Wayzata and Robinson but got nothing but small bass and sunfish.

It was about noon now and at this point we decided to try our SM spot again that we had started the day at. Based on our prefishing experience we thought we should be able to get something around 18 to upgrade from the 14 we already had. Bud and I both casted into the shade of the first dock we came to and we both hooked up right away with a SM. Bud's broke the surface and came loose while mine came towards the boat leaving the 3 foot clear rock bottom and heading for the milfoil under the boat. After carefully dislodging the fish from the weeds we got it into the net. It measured 18.5 and was caught on a 4 inch pumpkin double tailed Yamamoto grub on a light weight mushroom jig head.

Our plan was to finish the last part of the day back near the landing with some trolling for northerns and muskie. But before that we stopped in Excelsior Bay near Maynard's thinking we could get a better sunfish than the 7.0 we had. This is where Spanky had gotten a 9.5 while prefishing. Here we listened to the Gophers come back to tie California at 21-21 and Bud picked up a 7.5 sunfish. One of the condominium residents sitting on their dock became annoyed with our radio noise so we figured that was a message to move on.



It was about 2:00 when we got back to the west end of the lake to do some speed trolling for northern and muskie. Bud and I had some expectations of duplicating our success from a couple years earlier when we caught northerns and a muskie in an event to finish second together. We both put on the extra large weedless Johnson Silver Minnows with a trailer and started trolling in the weeds and on the edge in a about 5-10'. After about 20-30 minutes we went around Hardscrable Point and headed along the south side of Priests Bay. A 28.5 pike slammed my bait and was netted by Bud for an upgrade from the 21 we already had. We made a few more casts for LM and muskie and decided to head in at about 3:00. Bud had a party he had to get to and we were both pretty well exhausted from the heat and the long day.

After having 5 species by midmorning we were able to go back and upgrade 3 of them. Although we couldn't find a walleye or muskie we felt pretty good about placing with the bag we had. We had followed our plan to head east and the fish cooperated.

Good Ju-Ju By Banana Boy

It's tough to beat a day on the water, especially when you get out before the sun cracks the horizon. That was true for the recent multi-species tournament on Minnetonka, where once again Perp and I were paired. It was about this time three years ago we fished together and I caught a personal best 49.5 inch musky. Needless to say, I felt we had good juju going into the tournament.

Out of the gate we decided to try our luck on walleye while the light was low. Fishing the deep weed edge off Horseshoe Reef, we grabbed a few small sunfish and registered a monster 7-inch gill which (unfortunately) we'd never top. About this time Janitor and Stu rolled up on the spot and after a short time motored away. Unbeknownst to us they caught their walleye and were onto the next species. After a little longer and no luck, we decided to try another spot in the area; this time for bass. Perp had scouted Breezy Point that held a good mix of small boulders, rubble and weeds. While originally fishing the inside weed edge, we noticed a number of tournament pros fishing the outside, deep weed line. They seemed to be casting weighted plastics. Up until that point I'd been tossing a weightless YUM bubblegum (of course) worm. Perp picked up an 11-inch smallie casting a 3 inch minnow grub toward shore. After watching the pros, we moved to deeper water and started casting a variety of baits. I settled on the worm and added a bullet sinker to get it down. After awhile I saw what I thought was a musky trailing the boat about 6 feet down (likely a carp). Just about that time something slammed my bait. After a brief battle, we landed an 18.5 inch bucket mouth.



After boating a few smaller fish, we decided to head back to the tip of Breezy Point to see if we could upgrade the smallie before moving on. Perp was casting the shoreline with his minnow grub, and I decided to cast toward deeper water where I could see some spotty cabbage. I was fishing the scented Berkley Blade Runner (with plastic minnow), which has great action vertical jigging or casting. Not 5 minutes into our run I had a huge hit and knew it was a big fish. Once it came into sight, we could see it was a nice smallie. As we got it close to the boat I could tell it wasn't hooked very good. It took a few dives and made a couple of jumps, but before long it was in the net. We tried to stretch him to 21, but were extremely happy to settle on 20.5 inches. And yes, we got a picture to prove it.



By this point, we had two decent bass and needed to fill out in other species. We then motored to the flat in Gideon's Bay, where three years ago I caught the musky, but no luck. We fished a few other spots moving our way west and caught a few small fish. But, for the most part, the bite almost shut down completely. Despite a slow afternoon, the action in the morning kept us going. The juju was good as expected, but this time there were no belly snagged fish to deal with. Although it sure tasted good.

How to Finish Eighth

By Greenstick

A lot of people strive to finish in first place and first place only in everything they do. Others are less competitive and think that if they can't

finish first, well, second place isn't really so bad. But there's a certain element of culture shock that occurs to those who have done the due diligence to win, have developed a solid plan for success and are eager if not anxious to execute it, yet who finish eighth – not even in the top 50%. Such is the case with the Analist-Greenstick team in the Multi-Species tournament.

To say we got off to a fast start is a gross understatement. Our sojourn for victory began with a dash eastward to the channel between West Upper Lake and Phelps Bay, and we had our lines in the water only five minutes after the start of the tournament. *Bam!* – Analist hauled in our first species, a nice 15" largemouth that while not sensational, at least put us on the board. Only moments later, Greenstick hauled in an 8" crappie for our second species. Then Analist hooked into really good one – probably a big bass -- but it wrapped itself around part of a bridge support and got off. A couple minutes later, Greenstick landed another keeper -- a 7" sunny. It was only 6:50a.m. and we already had three species in the boat. They weren't big ones, but hey, we'd only been fishing for ten minutes and we already had three on the card. *"Partner!!! – We're gonna win this in a walk!!!"* we both hollered as we did the obligatory high-five that teammates feeling invincible always do on their way to victory... *"We've got a full nine hours to go and we're almost half way there!!!"*

We decided to spend only an hour early-on looking for walleyes even though we knew they'd be tough – after all, we had time to burn. But the walleyes were already in hiding so we shifted to smallies, looking in and around the rocks on the east side of the lake.

We tried everything for the next eight hours – suckers, fat heads, leeches, – we were all over the lake – Wayzata Bay, Robinson's Bay, Brown's Bay, Brackett's Point, the rock pile near Sunrise Point, Smith's Bay, under the Arcola Bridge, the weed lines just south of Hardscrabble Point, Eagle Island, Crane Island, and more. As we became more frantic and the hours dissolved away, our tactics, lures and rods changed with increasing frequency as we tried to land that fourth species... 11 o'clock.... noon.... one o'clock... two.... three... *"Holy crap, partner! It's 3:20*

already – *what're we doin'???*” asked Greenstick. *“I don't know... but this is why I hate fishing Minnetonka,”* Analist replied. All we had done all day is up our crappie and sunnie size by a half-inch each.

Frustrated, beaten-down and despondent, we trolled from Rock Reef southward back to the launch as the hour hand edged toward 4:00... It was eerily quiet in the trusty Lund as neither of us was anything but speechless. The faint gurgle of the live well and the periodic *whrrrrr* of a distant outboard motor were the only sounds we heard the last hundred yards to the dock.

We were spent. We had given it our all and had left it on the field... and the field had won. Looking back, maybe it was the over-confidence... maybe it was that one high-five we shared in a moment of exuberance at 6:50 in the morning that all the fish in the entire lake must have heard... and which told them, *“we'll show these guys...”*
Or maybe it was the cole-slaw...

Smooth Rock Lake Fly In

By Little Angel

Awhile back I brought in a few photos from our trip into Smooth Rock Lake. From that trip I caught two of my personal best fish, a 28 1/2" walleye and a 42 1/2 inch northern pike.

Our trip this year was again the same time as the Water Dog LOTW trip. There were 6 of us, my son Matt and future son-in-law Paul, as well as my business partner and his son and son-in-law.

The fly in was out of a resort about 100 miles north of International Falls. The outfitter was Pipestone Fly-In Outpost. They fly into several lakes in that area. Our flight was about 2 hours north of the resort.

We had used Pipestone last year as well but flew into another lake. The fishing was slow compared to other years. In most cases we would get around 100 fish per person in four days, however, this year was more like 50 to 60. The weather before we got there was quite cold and the previous fisherman at the cabin did even worse than us.

Most of the fish we caught were walleyes with a few big northern mixed in. Early in the day I picked up a 40 inch northern on my first cast with a green Vibrax spinner. Later that day using a salted minnow on a jig I caught the 28 1/2 inch walleye. I had to yell at my son-in-law to drop the fish he had on at the same time when I saw the monster walleye I had. I guess he was ok with it when he saw the walleye. About 10 minutes later in the same spot with the same jig, I got the 42 1/2 inch northern. No leader on 10 pound mono. Sometimes lady luck is with me.

It was a great trip with good food, lots of fish to eat, shore lunches and a wonderful time with family and friends.

If anyone wants more information on Pipestone Fly-In see the following web site.

<http://www.pfo.net/>

Little Angel

Photo's Below



New Musky Bait

By Kojak

I want to introduce you to a new, live, musky bait named Sig. Sig is short for Siegfried.

Sig is actually my neighbor Larry's dog, a dachshund. Sig is a noisy and active dog, so would be great at making unusual noises and thrashing about in the water to attract a musky.

For the last few years, Sig has participated in the JJ Hill dachshund races in Wayzata. In fact, last year he was featured in a channel 5 report on the races. It gave him a rather big head to be on TV. Sig generally wanders about the race course and usually finishes last or near last. He just does not like to jump the 3" hurdles. So he goes around the end, which takes too much time.

In addition to the race, there is a costume contest. In a past year he was dressed as a corn cob. I have called Sig musky bait for years and suggested to Larry we ought to turn him into a musky bait for the costume contest. This year his normal costume maker was too busy to make a costume. So my other neighbors and I collaborated to turn Sig into musky bait. I loaned my double cowgirl to the couple next door. She and her mom made the Velcro wrap for the body with the tinsel, and he made a treble hook out of coat hangers and foil. They also put a double spinner, but it ended up behind Sig's tail.

Sig did not win the costume contest but was clearly the crowd favorite. We fashioned a

leash out of some fly line and put it on a 2 foot Zebco rod and reel combo that Larry's 2 year old grandson used to parade the dog around. So it looked like he was trolling the Sig musky bait.



I'm thinking Sig better behave, because if he starts barking too much, I just might strap on his costume and swim him around Smithtown Bay.

- Kojak

2009 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ Saturday, March 21	Trout	WI Rivers	Janitor, Nasty, Shatner
√ Saturday, April 25	Crappie	Washington Lake	Mama's Boy, Griz
√ Sat-Sun, May 30-31	Walleyes	Big Stone Lake	Duper, Analist, Perp
√ Friday, June 19	Bass	Clearwater Lake	Helen, Buick
√ Saturday, August 22	Bass	Chisago Lakes	Chips, Farm B, Fluffy
√ Saturday, Sep 19	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick, Shorty, Kirk