

The Dogumentary

22nd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

November 2004

Banquet!

By now, you have sent in your reservation for the annual banquet at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano by the Eden Prairie Mall, which promises to be a great time as usual, courtesy of the Janitor and crew. The family-style dinner will be followed by desert and the slide show and then the annual awards ceremony. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm, with dinner beginning at 7:00 pm.

The 2004-2005 Waterdog Calendar

Nov 4	Annual Banquet
Dec 2	Monthly Meeting
Jan 6	Monthly Meeting
Feb 3	Monthly Meeting
March 3	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30 2005	RockNRoll Musky Tour

Dr. Roid Becomes a Retread

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Roid, Terry Petrik has decided to rejoin the Waterdogs after an absence of several years. Apparently, after nine boats and more than \$200,000 in those purchases, Crystal-Pierz Marine has agreed to let Terry make the Thursday and weekend club get-togethers that he was missing before due to his work hours. We also look forward to hearing more of Roids legislative outlook as it pertains to fishing, which has been missed during his hiatus.

New Jobs for Old Dogs

Several Waterdogs took on new Jobs during the past month. **Jerry Krekelberg** left Silent Knight security to form his own company, Liberty Security Services, and is already working a huge job for Lowe's before he has had time to get the rest of his business

organized. Jerry will be based from his home, and also has a new cell number of 763-238-4238. You know what this means now, Free home security systems for the Waterdogs!

Matt Mueller has left Chubb insurance after more than 20 years, and is now working for One Beacon, based in Boston, as their chief manager of technology insurance, which will require even more travel than his previous job. We can only hope that he will have a more flexible schedule, as well. And, you know what else this means, Free Insurance for all Waterdogs!

Steve Dupont is starting a new job at GMAC Finance, moving from a cozy local company into an international organization with nearly 200,000 employees. There will likely be many potential Waterdog helpers in a group that large. And, you know what else this means, Free cars for all Waterdogs!

Officer Nominations

At the October meeting, the club held nominations for several officer positions, and also for the year-end awards that will be bestowed at the banquet.

Nominated for **Waterdog of the Year**:

Griz and Suzy

The nominees for **Captain of the Year** are:

Nasty, Griz, and Mama's boy

For **Swab of the Year**:

Dr. Meat, and Suzy

Weenie of the Year:

Sticky, Felix, and Griz

The nominations for **VP** for next year are:
Griz, Farm Boy, and Juan Valdez.

For the Board of Directors:

Leibrock, Sticky, Shorty, and Fishdick, in addition to the vp nominees.

These officer positions will be voted on at the December meeting.

October Fishing Report

Rum River Smallies -- Old Fart, O.J. and Griz went to the Rum River near Anoka on Saturday, Oct. 9. They fished from around 9:00 a.m. until about 1:30 p.m. and managed to catch 16 smallies and a few northern. O.F. caught ten, O.J. had one and Griz had five. O.F. and O.J. were using medium-sized sucker minnows, lip hooked on a #6 hook with a split shot about 18" up the line. Griz tried that rig on and off, but all of his fish came off a 4 in. smoke-black flake Senko. Griz fished out of the back of the boat while O.J. and O.F. took turns running the trolling motor on O.J.'s new Ranger. Most of the fish were between 12" and 15"; O.F. had the biggest one of the day, which was just shy of 18".

More Smallies were also caught on the Rum in mid October by Felix and his 27 year-old daughter, Kristin. They were also using the standard 3"-4" sucker minnows for bait, and caught 21 smallies. Kristin got 11, and Felix got 10, along with a few northern. They had good action, but did not get one over 18" however, which is the goal on this water.

More from Griz --Griz and a friend were out Saturday (10/23/04) from about 1:00 P.M. - 4:45 P.M. fishing for muskies on Amacoy Lake near New Auburn, Wisconsin. They were fishing quick strike rigs with 12"-14" sucker minnows (two lines total) and working them from the shallow weedlines in about four feet of water to the first break in about 8'-10' of water in a zig-zag pattern with the trolling motor. It was quite windy and they spent much of the afternoon in and out of rain showers. The water temp was 51.5 degrees in the wind blown bays and 50 degrees in the calm bays. They only managed to catch one musky, an ugly 32" fish that looked like it had been through hell and back. It was all scarred up and missing one eye. Despite the weather and the lack of fish production, it was good to be out on the water for the afternoon.

Minnetonka Mishap -- Juan and Tom Keller fished Minnetonka on a cold Oct. 14 day, and scared up a few bass and northern. The lake was calm, so they decided to open up Laun's new blaster to see what that baby could do. Unfortunately, two of Tom's rods blew overboard, and one was lost forever. Although the event happened too late for this year's Weenie Award nominations, some lessons from Shorty are in order for Juan, now that he also has such a windy boat.

Bald Eagle Boy Scouts Outing -- Nasty and Griz fished on Bald Eagle Lake on Sunday, Oct. 10, from around 10:45 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m., prior to taking the boy scouts fishing from 3 – 5 p.m., later that day. It was kind of a slow day. They only caught two or three bass, three pike, three crappies and a bluegill, while we were fishing on their own, and nothing of any size. Taking the scouts out was fun, but there were not that many fish caught. Griz had four kids in his boat and they only caught one small crappie. The action in Nasty's, Chips' and Little Angel's boats was similar, with only one or two fish being caught in each boat during the outing. The kids all seemed to have a good time though, which is the most important thing.

Lake Harriet Muskies -- Fishdick and Suzy hit Lake Harriet on Sat., Oct. 9, for the evening musky bite (4 – 7:30 p.m.). Air temperature was about 70, bright blue skies, and water temperature was about 62. Weeds were still very green, but not as high or as thick as in the middle of the summer. Fishdick had two follows, both of which were fairly hot. One fish was about 40 in. and the other around 35 in. Fishdick also sighted a high 40s fish just cruising in the weeds, with no apparent interest in his Star Wars lure. The two follows came up on a Bagley's crankbait. At least five other boats were on this 250 acre lake at the same time, most fishing for muskies.

Waconia Muskies -- Rocky Leibrock was out on his own on Waconia on Sun., Oct. 10. Beautiful day. Rocky was throwing for muskies and they big girls were moving. Rocky saw ten fish and three hit his bait. But alas, he couldn't get hooks in any of them. White, Hot Head was getting the follows, but a black spinner with red blades and a white "thumper" tail got the hits. All fish seen were in shallow weeds on the

East side of the island. Fish appeared to be a mix of 30 inchers with 3-4 in the 40"(+) range. All in all, a great day.

Minnetonka Muskies – Mega Nasty went out on Thurs., Oct. 14 for an afternoon of fun. He was actually going to try some hot walleye spots that Janitor had suggested but ended up tangling with a musky. The afternoon began around 2:30 p.m. Three boats fishing on one of Janitor's hot spots – but no luck. Then, Nasty saw some bait fish jumping out of the water like crazy so he threw a musky bait. Lost a 40+ incher on the Vibrax. "I thought I had it hooked and got a good look at the fish but then poof, the curse of the Vibrax hit." Oh well, Nasty said he wouldn't have brought the fish into his boat as he had just cleaned it.

2004 Tournament Review: From the Winners' Circle Q&A with Nasty, Griz and Suzy

What do you think is the key to winning the tournament series?

Nasty: Participation is #1. I only missed one meeting this year. Second is learning and working on new techniques. I did well on both bass tournaments this year using a method I had never used before. Having that one special Chug Bug helps, too. Terry Petrik once said: "Thank god for the rattlin Chug Bug." Isn't that the truth. I also have a superstition that all of you will think is goofy. I try to do a good deed for someone the week before the tournament. Makes you feel good, puts a positive spin on things, and gives you confidence. Who knows, maybe that gives me the edge.

Griz: First and foremost, you need to attend all of the tournaments to give yourself the best possible chance at gaining points in each event. Second, focus on weighing in a limit in all of the tournaments. Many times a limit of small to medium sized fish will be enough to get you close to, or be in the top six places. Third, don't overlook the bonus points that you can gain from attending the special service events. While I personally would rather see the special service points not count toward the tournament series (and base the winners solely on angling ability), we all play by the same rules, which currently awards up to six bonus points. Fourth, make winning your goal

all year long and focus on making it happen. This is easier said than done, but having a goal and a positive mental attitude can make a huge difference. Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged on the water when things aren't going your way, but you still need to make the most of it and try to stay focused. One or two fish, even in the last few minutes of the day, can sometimes be enough to go from the middle of the pack to the top six. Remember that winning the tournament series is about consistency, not how many tournaments you can win. I try to finish in the top six in every tournament. If you can manage to do that, you'll give yourself a good chance of being near the top of the standings at the end of the year and give yourself a chance to win. It also helps to play to your strengths when setting goals for each tournament. For example, I am not a great walleye fisherman, so I consider a top six finish in a walleye tournament a good day. On the other hand, I am a better than average bass fisherman, so in bass tournaments I usually set my sights on being in the top three. Last, but not least, make sure that you still have fun on the water no matter what happens with the standings at the end of the day. Make sure to enjoy the time on the water and learn something, whether it is from your partner, about the water that you're fishing or about the species of fish that you're chasing. Any knowledge gained and time on the water will help you at a later date.

Suzy: Focus and attitude. After I placed in the first tournament (6th with Janitor), I made a goal of focusing on placing in each tournament. More importantly, I also made the goal of making every single tournament. And third, work closely with your partner, even if it's an individual tournament. For me, the fun of these tournament is when you're both catching fish and you know why you're catching those fish (i.e., the pattern).

What was the high point of the tournament series this year?

Nasty: Bertha catching that big musky on Vermillion. We were two pumped-up puppies after that. I had several memorable times. Suzy and I had a great day on Minnetonka, Dr. Meat and I had a blast on Clearwater, and Keller and I caught a lot of trout (I thought we were going to win that one and turns out – we came in 4th).

Griz: For me, the highpoint was the crappie tournament at Koronis. Making the right decision to move, break away from the pack and find fish that hardly anyone else went looking for was quite rewarding. Then at the end of the day having first, second and third place for the tournament all come from my boat capped off a great day of fishing. As much as I enjoyed catching the fish and winning the tournament, I found it even more rewarding to guide two Little Buddies (Suzy and Juan Valdez) to such great fishing and finishes.

Suzy: I had lots of highs this year. I couldn't believe I won the walleye tournament. I suck at walleye fishing. But I stuck to what I know about river walleye fishing and it paid off. I think the biggest highs came in the last minutes of three tournaments. I caught a crappie with just minutes before we needed to go to fill out by card – and that put me in 2nd by a half-ounce. I caught a 16.5 inch bass at the little island by Fletchers, minutes before the end of that tournament, which gave Nasty and I a half ounce or more to beat out Griz and his partner, and in the final 20 minutes of the Chip, I caught a 10-in. smallie for Kojak and I to place in 6th in that tournament. The lesson: fish until the very last minute.

What was the low point?

Nasty: Not catching a crappie during the Lake Koronis tournament. I considered myself to be a good crappie fisherman before that tournament. The low point from last year was not being able to fish Vermilion when Griz and I were only one point apart. We didn't have enough participation for a valid tournament.

Griz: For me it was the St. Croix tournament. I was really disappointed that neither my Little Buddy or I were able to catch a walleye all day. I believe that it was the first tournament that I've fished with the Waterdogs where I did not catch at least one legal fish in my six years with the club.

Suzy: Vermilion. It was just one of those tournaments where you fish your brains out and for whatever reason, the fish won't stay on the hook. The best example of this: Fishdick and I fished the back of Stuntz Bay, which a row of about 50 boat houses, all right next to

each other. We started at one end and thought, there's got to be a largemouth in here somewhere. Well, it wasn't until the very last house that I hooked up with a largemouth, only to see it get off after a few shakes of its head. Aaarrgghh!

Any lessons that you would care to share that you learned over the course of the season?

Nasty: At every event at least one Dog is going to be catching fish. With that being said, don't accept that they are not biting.

Griz: Have confidence in your abilities in order to make quick decisions on the water. Don't forget that we are fishing against the clock as much as we are against each other. Don't be afraid to move around if you are not catching fish were you think that you should be, or to stay put, be patient and try different techniques in the same spot all day if you know fish are there. Either way, commit to a strategy and learn from your decision, even if it turns out to be wrong.

Suzy: I certainly believe in luck, but the difference between this year and previous years is the homework I put into each tournament. I combed web sites, I talked to different Dogs, to friends, and when I could, I took the time to pre-fish with other Dogs like Nasty and Fishdick who I think are great anglers. The other big lesson I learned: don't be content to stick with the pack. Griz and I couldn't stand the boat kissing at the Kornois tournament, so we said to each other, "well, we may not win this tournament, but let's go find somewhere else to fish" as neither one of us wanted to spend the entire day under the bridge. And, low and behold, we found the honey hole.

Any fishing tips that you would like to share?

Nasty: Keep your bait in the water, keep talking, listening, and watching. Pay attention. I usually know what bait is on every Waterdog rod at the beginning of a tournament. If I hear of someone catching fish, I already know what they are using. Talk with other Waterdogs about how they catch fish. My partners' got tips on where to catch walleyes on both multi-

species tournaments. My boat had a countable walleye at each of those events.

Griz: You can't fish too shallow for bass. There are a lot of times that you can start your day fishing docks, pads or slop and pick off a quick limit of six fish to get comfortably on the board. You can then spend the rest of your day focusing on bigger fish and take a few more risks to try to improve your standings (plus you may run into some really nice fish using these methods as well). Also, do your homework. Study maps ahead of time, talk to other anglers who are familiar with the water and come up with a game plan for the day (or at least the first few spots) before you get on the water and waste tournament time doing it there.

Suzy: Learning from other Dogs. I think I learned more about fishing this season than I had in the previous ten. I gleaned a tidbit of knowledge from everyone I fished with this year, which I believe will make me an even better angler in the years to come. For example, on the second day of LOTW, I stopped, watched Bagbalm cast for muskies, asked him exactly what he was doing and why – the rest of that day and week speaks for itself. Tips from Fishdick, Nasty, Griz, Bagbalm, Fluffy, Old Fart, Shorty and others paid off for what I think will be my best season of fishing for many years to come.

If you had to the chance to do anything over, what would it be?

Nasty: I would have caught more fish than Dr. Meat at Clearwater to break 100 points. Should have done more searching at Koronis. We sat in one spot without success for too long. I had a great fishing year this year so I just hope to do it again.

Griz: I would have tried to pre-fish the St. Croix the day prior to the tournament and done some more homework before getting there.

Suzy: I learned that there's fishing to the best of your ability and then, there's fishing to win a tournament. For example, at the Whitewater tournament, Janitor and I had a great card (especially with his rainbows), but I learned that to win the tournament, we should have focused some time on brookies, which were

the most valuable fish for that tournament, and which, we didn't catch any.

Do you have a go-to lure and/or fishing technique that played a significant role in your success?

Nasty: This year it was two lures. I have a white chug bug that just catches bass better than any other lure in my box. One of those that are tuned just right. The other is the Senko. Griz turned me on to those last year. I've never had confidence in worms until now. Any color works as long as it's smoke.

Griz: Senko baby! I've caught so many bass on them over the past three or four years that it's hard to get away from them, but I'm always searching for the next hot bass lure. I'm really glad to see the rest of the club benefiting from starting to use them after I introduced them to most of the club after the South metro bass-fishing tournament. In general, I prefer to fish any type of worm rig for bass. Worming is my favorite technique, whether it's a Texas rig, weightless, Carolina rig, etc. -- I like them all.

Suzy: Nasty and Griz turned me onto the Senko, but now I'm trying to obtain the "feel" to set the hook. Vibrax also did it for me, too (even the small versions, which I used to catch fish in a number of tournaments). Pink and white (I'm a believer, baby).

What does it mean to you to finish at the top of the standings?

Nasty: I have an annual goal to be in the top three. To do that, you have to place in every tournament. That's tough to do with the fishermen we have in this club.

Griz: It means a lot to me; I take it seriously and work hard at it all year long. I try to keep learning and try to stay one step ahead of the pack. Also, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the rest of the anglers in the club, they are all great fishermen and the competition gets tougher every year. I feel very fortunate to have finished in the top three spots four times within my six years of being a club member, exceeding even my own high expectations. I really feed off of the competition and I've really enjoyed elevating my own performance over the years by fishing against the likes of Nasty, Dankert, Dickey and

everyone else in the club. Not unlike Maris and Mantle or Sosa and McGwire, when you have someone that you're chasing closely, or that is chasing close behind you, you tend to perform at a higher level, and I thank everyone in the club for bringing that next level out of me. Hopefully I have a few more levels to go.

Suzy: Finishing in the top 3 is incredible. I can't wait to start up again next year. It sure was fun to mix it up with Nasty, Griz, Bertha and all the rest. But I think the best part was to hear all of the Dogs cheering me on. That was cool – very classy. Thanks guys.

Hooked and Set on... Brian Karsjens

By Suzy



Handle: Don't have one yet and that makes me feel kind of sad. Oh well, I figure that you guys will figure out something soon enough.

Nickname(s) at home or work: The only nickname I can remember ever having was the "Commissioner."

When did you join the club: 2004

What club committees have you worked on, or leadership positions have you held: None yet but ready and available.

Family (wife, kids, pets, etc.): Wife, Barb, a media specialist at Zachary Lane Elementary School; daughters, Rachel, a CPA with McGladrey and Pullen, and Laura, an Elementary Ed Sr. at Bethel University; son, David, a senior at Armstrong High School. Two English springer spaniels, Millie and Mackenzie.

Age: 55

Hometown: Steamboat Rock, Iowa

Where you currently live: Plymouth, Minn.

School: Iowa State University (The real university in Iowa)

Your job: Quality Assurance Manager, Honeywell Environmental and Combustion Controls.

Your favorite fishing reel: My old Johnson Century from the 60's (Wheaties box top mail-in offer). It casts so well and has been so faithful. I picked up a Shimano Curador this year and am really enjoying it.

Your favorite fishing rod: Depends on what I am fishing for. For light action, I love the Shakespeare rod that my Johnson Century is on.

Your favorite fishing lure: Classic red and white Bass-Oreno.

Boat: 2002 Crestliner 18.5 ft Sportfish with 125 Merc., and 3 canoes.

Truck: 2002 Silverado extended cab.

Your personal bests (by inches or pounds): Until this year I didn't keep track of size.

Musky – Waiting with bags packed (almost) for LOTW next summer.

Northern pike – 29 inches

Walleye – 23 inches

Largemouth bass – 14.5 inches

Smallmouth bass – 17 inches

Trout/salmon – 32 lb. king salmon in Alaska

Crappie -- 12 inches

Carp – Never weighed or measured, just planted them in the garden.

Halibut - 55 pounds

The fish that you like to fish for the most: Largemouth and smallies.

Your favorite lake or river on which you like to fish: Somewhere in the BWCAW - pick any lake up there. My current favorite is the one I am on at the time. I love fishing new lakes or rivers.

Favorite pro angler: Don't have one.

Your fishing fantasy: Salmon fishing in Alaska with my son.

All-time favorite fishing memory: Several come to mind. After thinking about this, I discovered that my fishing memories weren't so much about the fish caught, but the time spent with friends and family fishing.

- A cold and wet October fishing trip to Northern Minnesota with my dad and grandpa when I was about 10.

- My son, who was 4 at the time, screaming "What is it?" as he pulled in a two-foot northern (his first) up alongside our canoe. We were crappie fishing on Lake Itasca. Was he ever

proud as he carried the stringer up to show Mom.

- Salmon fishing with my dad in Alaska.
- Two years ago on a fishing trip to Eagle Lake, Ontario, with my dad and son, having Dad say that maybe someday I would be lucky, like him, and get to spend Father's Day on a lake with my son and grandson fishing.

Guess I am getting sentimental.

Favorite fishing technique: Casting plugs or in-line spinners. After this year, the Senko may rise to the top of the list.

The person who has had the most important influence on your fishing skills.... My father gave me a love for fishing and taught me patience. Every time I fish with someone, I am always watching to learn their techniques and skills. So when I am in your boat, use only your best techniques.

Favorite fishing magazine: Whatever is on the table at the dentist's office.

Best fishing tip you could give to the rest of the Dogs: Remember, I am watching so please use only your best techniques. I don't need any more bad habits.

Favorite cuts of meat: Prime rib and breaded pork tenderloin. Being from Iowa, I need to support both types of farmers.

Favorite restaurant: Michael's in Big Lake has good prime rib. Culver's has the pork tenderloin sandwich.

Favorite beverage: An Arnie Palmer in the summer or a Diet Coke.

Favorite thermostat: The round T87 that is in so many houses. Currently though, it is Honeywell's new Vision Pro with touch screen.

Favorite musical artist or band: No one favorite. I like a variety of music, as long as it isn't heavy metal or twangy. I enjoy most 50's and 60's rock groups.

Favorite movie: Tough question, maybe Kelly's Heros or The Dirty Dozen.

If I didn't have to go to work on Monday morning, I would be.... Fishing, hunting, camping in the BWCA or traveling with my wife. Not necessarily in that order (in case she is reading this).

Other hobbies or interests, besides fishing: Hunting, camping, woodworking, ham radio, baseball.

I like being a Waterdog because... It provides a great reason to get out fishing, try

new water and it offers the opportunity to learn from others. The Dogs have been fun to fish with and to get to know. The service opportunities, such as teaching fishing skills to kids, is great.

Rituals or habits you perform to improve your fishing ability: Watch, listen and steal use others techniques if they are working.

Favorite fishing memory with the Dogs: Watching one of the kids cast and catch the ceiling at the Schara clinic at the Convention Center.

Word that best describes you: My wife says the answer is easy, "Engineer". I'm not sure what she means by that.