

The Dogumentary

26th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

November 2008

Banquet!

We'll see you all at the Annual Banquet at the Sunshine Factory on Thursday!

Come and enjoy the Waterdogs and their families, and all the festivities.

We're especially looking forward to the Oscar-winning presentation of Greenstick's movie, starring all of us!

The social hour starts at 5:30 and dinner will be served around 6:30 p.m. with the featured festivities starting shortly afterward.

2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Nov 6	Annual Banquet
Dec 4	Monthly Meeting
Jan 8 2009	Monthly Meeting
July 18-25	2009 RockNRoll Musky Tour

A Little Less Than 300 Days Until LOTW
Why not think about trout instead.

*From the Desk of the President,
Little Angel*



The fishing season is winding down and it won't be long until we have to put the boats away for good. I haven't winterized my boat yet, but probably will next week. I know we have a few diehards in the club that like to try for those late season muskies. I'll look forward to hearing those late-season stories.

While many of the dogs were up at Lake of the Woods this summer, I was with my son, Matt, and some friends on a fly in on Lake Wabakimi in northern Ontario. We usually have good luck on these trips, although this was a new lake for us, so it presented a number of challenges. The lake is made up of rivers and channels so a number of the areas we fished had a current to deal with. The current often made it a challenge for getting your bait down, caused a number of snags in the rocks and also made it difficult to control the boat.

Lake Wabakimi is known for nice-sized walleyes and good-sized northerns. We fished for 3 days

and the four of us combined ended up with just over 400 fish. The largest Matt and I caught were 3 northerns around 40 inches, one of which is pictured above. We also managed to get some nice walleye in the 20 to 25 inch range. The walleye weren't very fussy; we caught them on jigs with live minnows, salted minnows, leaches and crawlers. It didn't seem to matter to them what you used for bait as long as you could locate where they were.

We caught the bigger northerns on black/silver bladed Vibrax spinners. They were fun to catch as the water was so clear you could see them fighting from a long way out.

It's great building memories with Matt, and we plan to take a similar trip next year to a lake called Smooth Rock in the same area.

Next on the agenda is the Annual Waterdog Banquet, which will be held this year at the Sunshine Factory. I am looking forward to seeing the slide presentation again and getting together with the wives and families.

See everyone on Thursday!
Little Angel



VOTE '08

For More Fish and Bigger Fish

The December meeting will feature voting for officers for the 2009 season, and for VP for next year, who will then become president in 2010. In addition, votes were collected at the October meeting for the year-end awards to be bestowed at the banquet.

The number one honor in the club is the Waterdog of the Year, and three deserving members were nominated at the September meeting. The nominees are:

Brian 'Perp' Karsjens
Kirk 'Shatner' Duholm
Dave 'Greenstick' Haberle

Captain of the Year nominees are:

Rick 'OF' Anderson
Ron 'Shorty' Boudreaux
Scott 'Kojak' Hennessey
Mark 'Analist' Bystrom

And Swabbie of the Year nominees are:

Branden 'Banana Boy' Happel
Laun 'Juan' Sanderson
Tim 'Father Bertha' Yanta

The above awards will be presented in person at the Annual Awards Banquet.

For next years' VP, the nominees are:

Laun Sanderson
Brian Karsjens and
John Schaffhausen

The VP nominees will each give speeches at the December meeting before the vote, in which they will each make the customary empty promises and distasteful mudslinging of the other candidates. Bring a poncho so you don't take too many mud hits yourself.

For the Board next year, the nominees are: Banana, Perp, Greenstick, and Kojak, in addition to the VP nominees who are not elected VP.

OF and Father Bertha Dredge Up Rum River Win

The fifth and final tournament of the year was held on the Rum River on an unusually nice day for a Waterdog tournament that had the fisherman down to t-shirts, and Griz in shorts all day. It got up to above 70, when the average high is more like 53, so we almost felt guilty being out there. With no wind, it was easy boat control and easy fishing for most of the teams.

In the end, there were 62 smallmouth caught by 11 teams, for an average catch of just under three fish per guy. Two of the 11 teams caught a limit of 12 fish, and several large piglet smallies were caught.

The team of OF and Father Bertha caught the largest limit of 12 smallies, and were able to cull a couple of the smaller ones for a 37.36 pound limit. That's better than a 3 lb. average, which is impressive in any bass tournament. Their limit included fish of 19.5", 19, 19, and 18", and came mainly from one area on the Rum. Here's Rick's account of their day:

I attribute Bertha's and my success on the Rum River to fishing it many, many times, sucker minnows and luck. Years ago Buick and Huck turned me onto the fall SM bite on the Rum. I think I have been up there every fall since. It is relaxing fishing and the potential for nice fish is there. Felix, Shatner and I went up the previous Saturday, but caught less than 10 fish. I use a spinning reel with 12 lb white fireline, a small chrome or white #6 hook and small pea size split shot 8 to 12 inches above the hook. I hook the minnow (I like 4" to 7") thru the lips from the bottom up. We spent the whole day in the stretch from the first turn to just past the second turn upstream of the landing. I always fish the deep side of the river. I like to toss it up to shore and bring it back very, very slow. Around the docks, pontoons, boats, brush and wood are good confidence spots for me. There are a lot of snags and retying, but if your not doing this you're not getting close enough. When I feel a fish on the line, I will give them a 20 count. The enjoyment for me is watching the line go sideways. If you set the hook too soon, you

just pull it out of their mouth. We caught 14 fish for the day with Bertha getting 10 and 4 for me. What was odd was my four were the biggest on our card, a 19.5, two 19's and an 18. Bertha fished the same way I did and he used a red hook. The big fish spot for us was a small rock pile in the middle of the river just up of the second turn, wher it comes up to about 4 ½ feet. Three of our 18 and 19's came off of the pile. Shatner and I were up there several years ago and stumbled onto the rock pile. It's been a good spot ever since.

- OF

In second place was the team of Shatner and Banana Boy, with a limit of 12 fish for 31.79 pounds, caught in several areas on the river.



Banana Assists Shatner with a Catch

In third was the team of Felix and Mamas Boy, who caught most of their fish along the wooded stretch on the river on the opposite side on the way up to the community spot.

In fourth place were The Janitor and his Little Buddy Buick, who boated the largest fish of the tournament, a 20 incher.



Janitor Hefts His Big Brown 20



Buick Got in on the Action with a Cowgirl-Sized Smallie

Fifth place in the tournament went to the team of Perp and Greenstick, and in sixth were the Analyst and Dr. Sticky.

It was a great day to be on the water, and after the fishing, we all enjoyed a lunch from Famous Dave's, which was more expensive than usual, but then we earned it!

Shatner Takes Tournament Series with Consistent Performance

The tournaments are over, after the weather-shortened series of just five tournaments for the year, the least number of events in 8 years. That made it more important to place well in the tournaments that we had in order to have a shot at one of the top three spots for the year. As usual, you needed not only to win at least one tournament during the year, but also place well in others in order to rack up enough points for the top spot.

Kirk was on the winning Trout Tournament team with the Analyst, which got them both off to a good start for the year. Additionally, Kirk also shared second place finishes in the Sylvia, Mille Lacs, and Rum River tournaments. Part of Kirk's secret is that he goes out fishing almost every weekend during the season, usually on Saturday morning, but sometimes on Sunday. He will often pre-fish tournament waters, and has gone out with quite a large number of other club members during the year. It's one of his key methods for doing well – lots of practice and picking up on the tips that his fishing partners have to offer.

Four Trophies for The Analyst

Also impressive this year was the Analyst Mark Bystrom's showing in the tournament series. For the first time in recent memory, a Waterdog has taken one of the top 3 tournament trophies for the year and did not fish all of the events. A Hawaiian vacation caused Mark to miss the Sylvia bass tournament, but in the four tournaments that he did fish, he was on the first-place team three times, along with one other sixth-place finish. That's three first-place tournament trophies at the banquet, along with another for his second-place year-end finish, for 4 trophies in all. Of course, we all know how he did so well this year, and that was from not only practicing whenever possible, but also analyzing each fishing situation until there are no stones in the stream that he has not looked at. Way to go, Mark!

The 2008 Tournament Year

It was a generally good year for tournaments this year, with an above-average turnout and rotten weather at only one event. We averaged 22.6 in attendance at the tournaments, with none under 20. In years past, the average has been under 20, so this year was a great showing. Nine Dogs made all 5 tournaments, and nine made 4. The most-attended tournament was the Green Lake event with 27, and the lowest was the Trout tournament at 20.

Other oddities from this year include that fact that none of the tournaments were a necessary over-nighter, as Green Lake and Mille Lacs were both about two hours away, and could be reached without staying over.

Out of the five tournaments, four had bass included in the scoring, with three of those featuring smallies as one of the most desirable species to catch. On the other hand, having smallies in the mix saved us from having a one-fish tournament on Green Lake.

Summer on Smith Lake

by Mamas Boy

A couple of years ago I bought a small cabin on Smith Lake about 15min east of Alexandra. I spent most of my time the last few years remodeling the cabin so I didn't fish as much as I would have liked. Finally this year most of my major projects are finished and I had some time to fish.

Smith Lake is about 600 acres and a max depth of 35 feet. The lake has pretty good bass, panfish and northern population. When I've had time to fish I usually target bass. I have a large reed bed that starts about 15 yards from my boat slip, so I only use my big motor to back off my lift. Then I just drop the trolling motor and start fishing. I can toss plastics or spinners and usually pull in a few bass each time I go out so bass are pretty easy to catch.

I hadn't spent much time fishing for walleyes so now that I had some extra time I wanted to figure out how get a few of these in the boat. We have a creek that feeds into Smith from Lake Osakis. In the spring walleyes run up the creek and end up spawning in Smith. I believe I'm see what appear to be walleyes on my graph, but haven't been able to pick anything up in my past attempts. Not may of the local's fish for walleyes as they seem to be tough to get, but they tell me the ones caught are usually pretty big.

On Memorial weekend the weather was pretty windy most of the weekend, but it finally calmed down a bit to make it out. I typically have used leeches in the past, but this time I picked up some golden shiners to see how they would work. I was only out about a half hour and had my first bite. It was a nice fish but lost it as I had a long lindy on and it shook off before the net. On the second bite I lost everything, as I'm sure a slimer bit me off. The 3rd one I didn't lose as I landed a nice 23" walleye, my first one caught and only one this year for me on Smith. Next spring I'll try again as I think the walleyes only bite with cool water temps. Now that I have a little more time I'm hoping I can find the hotspots on the lake and develop a few patterns to increase my odds in catching those elusive walleyes.



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