

The Dogumentary

29th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

November 2011

The new name for the Rum River is "Dead Man's Gulch".

Banquet!

The Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Bloomington, the same place as last year. By now you have turned in your meal reservations and are looking forward to a fun evening of fellowship, awards, and the famous Greenstick Video Show, and perhaps a surprise or two!

2011-2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Nov 3	Banquet!
Dec 1	Monthly Meeting
Jan 5 2012	Monthly Meeting
Feb 2	Monthly Meeting
Mar 1	Monthly Meeting
Apr 5	Monthly Meeting
May 3	Monthly Meeting
June 7	Monthly Meeting
July 5?	Monthly Meeting
July 21-28	LOTW Rock 'n Roll Musky Tour
Aug 2	Monthly Meeting

From the Desk of the President, Captain Kirk



Another season is coming to a close with temperatures dropping and daylight hours dwindling. As a fisherman and hunter I think I am much more aware of the dramatic seasonal changes we have here in Minnesota. Earlier in the summer I would find myself getting up at 5:00 or earlier to catch that early morning bite. Now with sunrise closer to 8:00 I tend delay my fishing until even later to give the temperature time to come up a bit and become bearable.

Not only do I adjust my outdoor hours thru out the year but I have also adjusted to become more of a true multi-species fisherman since joining the Waterdogs. By going with what is in season I have been able to extend fishing to about a 10-11 month season. I haven't really gotten into the hard water fishing but that could be next. The year usually starts with a couple of early season trout outings



Griz and Amber celebrated their wedding in October along with 24 Waterdogs and spouses.

starting as early as January and now ends with fishing for those river walleyes well into November. I am hoping to hit Pool 2 several more times over the next couple of weeks before winterizing and packing my boat away for the year.

I am looking forward to next weeks Banquet and reflecting back on another year with all of our members. The video production that we will have is certain to bring back a lot of our memories of fun times we have enjoyed together in 2011. Thanks again to Greenstick for all the hours he has put into the video that has become the highlight of our annual banquet. (along with the Weenie Award)

Shatner

“One thing becomes clearer as one gets older and one’s fishing experience increases, and that is the paramount importance of one’s fishing companions.”

John Ashley Cooper & OF

Rum River Football Clinic

On Saturday, October 10, the Waterdogs celebrated their sixth and last tournament of the year which will go down in history for a number of reasons. Records were broken and personal bests were scored as the Smallmouth were being boated hot and heavy. There was a total of 13 teams and 27 club members fishing, with 8 of the teams filling their cards with 12 fish. But the best part of the day was the size of the fish, with more big fish being caught than maybe any other tournament in club history.

In all, there were **142** fish on the cards, and an estimated 35-40 others that were culled by teams with limits. The total weight of all the scored fish was **371** pounds, which is an incredible amount when you consider the skinny size of the water that they came from. Smallmouth bass are truly the Monsters of the Rum River.

The winning team was OF and Dr. Uno who put together a 12-fish limit of smallies that went from 17.5” to 19.5”. Near the end of the tournament they were culling 17.5’s. They got all their fish at the farthest downstream east shoreline where no one else was fishing. And they say that they only culled 6-7 fish, meaning that most of the ones they did catch were pigs. The average size of their catch was just under 4lbs. a fish. This may be the heaviest bass card of any Waterdog tournament, but we’ll leave that to the club historians to figure out.

Other top stories include Griz getting his lifetime best of 20.5”, and then beating that with a 21”, ten minutes later. Carmen also got his lifetime personal best of 21” under the roar of the train bridge. And winning team partner Dr Uno said it was the best day of bass fishing of his life.



Griz Lifetime Personal Best 21” Smallmouth



Carmen Lifetime Personal Best 21" Smallmouth

The big fish were common, with 52 of the 142 on the cards being 17" and better. All 13 teams got at least one or more of that size. On the cards, here's how many of the bigger fish were caught, (dropping the half-inch):

	#	Weight
21"	2	5.7
20"	1	5
19"	14	4.2
18"	12	3.6
17"	23	3.0

Imagine those 52 fish all in one place.

The estimate of the number of sucker minnows called to duty was 750.

The downer of the tournament was the discovery of a dead body by Felix and Bud, just downstream of the train bridge. Apparently the authorities knew that guy was in there as Nasty and Shorty had seen them diving and dredging for him the day before. Upon discovering the body, the boys tried calling on the emergency band of the marine radio, but there was no answer, so they called 911. Perp then gave the first cop to show up a lift out to where the body

was, and got some negative comments on needing a permit for a tournament for his effort. Perp then tried to find out the exact rules for tournaments a day later, and was told "if you didn't get a ticket, don't worry about it".

The tournament ended with the now traditional treat of having Famous Dave's BBQ delivered to the park by the landing by Felix's son. It certainly was a tournament for the record books and will not be forgotten by those who participated.

Brown Bag Limit

By Dr. Uno

I feel privileged to get my first writing assignment as a 'dog. The smallmouth tourney was a success for me for two reasons: One, I didn't fall in, and two, I actually caught something. This is very different from the first time I fished with Old Fart. It was nice to fish for my favorite fish with one of my favorite baits. How can you beat a bobber and a minnow? When we started out, all the boats went upstream, so we went downstream for calmer waters. FD and Meat flew by us to get to their spot, so we just kept going until we were at the last bridge before the dam.

I was using my double secret slip bobber rig, OF was fishing on the bottom. I used 30 lb braid with a 10 lb fluorocarbon leader, attached via swivel so that I would only lose the leader if I got snagged (which I did, a lot). I caught five over 16 inches in the first 30 minutes, so OF switched to a bobber too, and pulled in a 19.5 incher. We fished the east bank between the last bridge and the dam down and up, then had to make an 11am run for bait since we used 4 dozen med/large suckers in 2.5 hours. The fish were mostly on fallen trees, with a few on rocks. We had to be pretty close to the cover to get bites. I lost several fish and about 15 hooks to the wood.

My favorite catch was a 19 incher that came off an old Christmas tree that had been sunk in front of someone's rickety old dock. Pretty much all of our fish came from one stretch of about 200 yards of bank which we went up and down several times. I wish I could say why that bank was better than others, but it looked similar to some other areas. It did probably have more wood cover, which I think was key.



Dr Uno recovers another Smallie Football

It was a beautiful day to fish and I was happy just to be out, but I am pretty pumped that Old Fart could help me win my first tournament.

Lac du Bois Redux

By Fluffee

Most of you have heard of my annual late September Pike trips. Every year, six buddies from grade school through junior high head to the Ontario side of Rainy Lake for a week of pike fishing. This tradition started 35 years ago in 1976 and is still the best part of the year for each attendee. Every fifth year we try something new; a highlight being a trip to Alaska 10 years ago. With each of us having somewhere between 1-to-3 kids in college, Alaska was too pricey a proposition for us this year so we looked for a more local venue and decided to give Angel Outpost a try.

Most of you have two obvious questions, none of which can be answered succinctly, 1. How was fall fishing on LOTW, and 2. How is Angle Outpost under the new ownership.

1. Fish - Our target would be both Pike and Muskies. Only one of my buddies had ever been Muskie fishing before, Mayo who joined us for a few years on the Waterdogs July trip to the Angle. So LOTW would be new to many of us for different reasons. While Rainy and Lake of the Woods are part of the same system it turns out they are very different lakes in September.

A typical trip to Rainy would have us boating 10-25 pike a day (per man) all 32" or over with an occasional 40-42" showing each trip. Rainy in the

fall is chock full of large, open cabbage beds. And they get stacked with pike. I haven't fished Rainy in the summer in years and have never fished LOTW in the fall. Comparing and contrasting the two would prove to be quite challenging.

There are no big cabbage beds on LOTW as far as I can find. There is plenty of cabbage, but it is either all bunched up in thick patches or in thin strips along shore lines. So looking for those stacked pike in half-football field sized beds wasn't going to happen. In fact most of the weed beds had died off by time we hit the lake on September 24. What weed that was growing was cabbage, coontail and grass. With our usual pike by the bushel formula unavailable, we spent some time trying to figure out the musky pattern.

Weather for our week was a slow warming trend that had water temps move from about 54 to 60 degrees before falling to around 57 for the last two days. The time of the year and possibly temperatures put the musky half way off their summer patterns. They were out of the bays but could occasionally be found on broken rock and points. Typically they showed up on those spots that were more exposed to big water or current. A little bit of nearby weed would help but was harder to find. Casting tight to shoreline, whether reeds, cattails, rocks or weeds was not productive. Forget dead wood, sandy and muddy bays as well. The fish that we sighted came off of shore line area but seemed to be hanging just a bit off in slightly deeper water.

The lake wasn't crowded - mostly a few walleye guys and one or two people casting for Musky. Late in the week we saw a boat or two trolling for Musky. We did not see many fish, it was even lighter than in July. Of those that did show up, the same lazy, disinterested follow was the prevailing attitude. No Monsters sighted (Wonder Bay was a ghost town Shorty). It was not all doom and gloom though. Three buddies had either a first or personal best Musky on the trip though. Our largest boated was a 46" on day one. When that was followed up by a 39.5" an hour later we thought it the lake would catch fire. Not so. In the end the top fish were a little on the lighter side; 46.5", 40.5", 39.5" and 39" were the best Muskies. A few fat pike did show up in the 37-39" class. Walleye were not to be seen (by us, but those targeting them were doing well) and only 3 Smallies were boated on the last day.

As the weeds were down and we weren't throwing tight to cover it allowed us to use one of our favorite

fall tools – 1 ¼ oz Little Cleo. These are heavy oblong spoons more often used for salmon than anything else. But tradition has shown that pike (and now muskies) love them in the fall. Our color 8 out of 10 time is a brass body with a red stripe. They don't even sell these anymore. You can find a chrome version and modify it with some Sharpies which work just as well. ALL of our fish save three came in on Cleos. The rest were caught on Shumways, including the 46”.

2. Angle Outpost– It was a good feeling to get to camp and see/feel a renewed hubbub of activity. Even though Jason and Lisa had yet to sign the final papers when we got there (they closed later in the week), they had the family moved in and were busy putting in new drainage by cabin one. The sound of the dozer and back-hoe during the day was evidence of much going on. You definitely got the sense that work was afoot. They had already trained the kids on operating the gas pumps as well. It was a charming sight to motor in to dock in the evening and see the kids truck on down in the golf cart to top off your tank. Another treat was the hot coffee and cookies waiting for us every morning at the boathouse. I can't imagine this offering will be easy to maintain during the peak summer months and 2 dozen or so Waterdogs show up – but we can hope.

Jason, Lisa and their family made a terrific effort making sure we were accommodated for, checking in on us every so often, fresh change of linens, etc. We did our best to confuse the daylights out of the billing situation but Jason and Lisa were very obliging to our idiotic approach to payment.

I do believe the Waterdogs will feel warmly welcomed next July. Just one thing though; Jason is the Deputy Sheriff up there so keep the shenanigans this side of legal.

Every Year is Election Year for the Waterdogs

The December meeting will feature elections for next year's officers. Come prepared to vote for your candidate after hearing the rousing debate. Protests and sleep-ins will not be allowed.

Nominated for VP and 2013 president are:

Dr. Meat
Juan Valdez

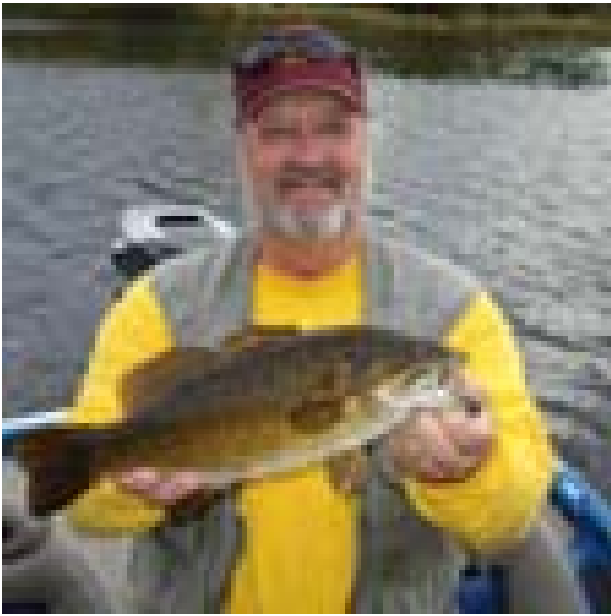
Nominated for the Board are:

Puddin' Man
Suzy
Hillary
Nasty
Kojak

More Photos from the Rum River







36" Northern



APPLE VALLEY



DAVID BREWSTER • dbrewster@startribune.com

Rick Anderson is a mentor to Jon Fagre, who has an artificial limb. Anderson also fixes old bikes for his mentoring organization, and has adapted one for Jon.

Mentoring program seeks bike donations

An Apple Valley resident is again seeking donations of used bikes to benefit a Dakota County mentoring organization.

Rick Anderson plans to fix the bikes as needed and sell them, with the proceeds going to Kids 'n' Kinship, a group that matches kids with adult mentors. He's already donated nearly \$10,000 to the organization, he said.

At his 2011 sale, Anderson sold 68 bikes, raising more than \$6,200. His next sale will be in the spring of 2012.

Anderson's first job was tuning up Schwinn bicycles. He accepts all makes and models of bikes. Contact Anderson at 952-322-4729 or ricka@pcgagencies.com.